



SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

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

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ESWATINI GIRL- CHILD SHINES IN BUILDIT CHAMPIONSHIPS



Anele Ngwenya receiving the trophy on behalf of Ishibobo Academy

One Eleanor Roosevelt said "A Woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water". These words were best implemented by the young girls who were bold enough to participate against boys in the current U 13 Buildit Championships. Really these girls demonstrated a lions heart as they were brave enough to take-on the boys in the field of play. Indeed football is for everyone and it is a sport that does not support any form of discrimination.

During the event that was held in Matsapha; Vunokuhle Dube from Royal Leopards FC was a marvel to watch at the heart of defense for her team. This rose among thorns in this event was too good

"THIS IS ENCOURAGING AND ALSO GOOD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN THE COUNTRY AS MORE PARTICIPATION OF THE GIRL-CHILD IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL UNEARTH MORE TALENTED PLAYERS WHO WILL END UP PLAYING IN THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND ULTIMATELY THE WOMEN NATIONAL TEAMS."-
FREDERICK MNGOMEZULU.

for a majority of her opponents. "I like playing football with boys as it makes me a better player more especially when I play with girls"; Dube said. At the event that was held in Manzini; two girls were in action with one lady being a coach. These players were Anele Ngwenya who played as a goalkeeper for the champions of the day, Ishibobo Academy. She was also the captain of her team. In one of the matches, she played as an in-field player and had good touches on the ball. "I like playing football because it is a good sport that keeps me away from bad habits and to play as a goalkeeper, I am inspired by the Kaizer Chiefs player, Itumeleng Khune"; Ngwenya said.

The other girl player on the day was Nomfundo Bhembhe who played as a striker for Manzini Sundowns FC. She

EFA IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF LOCAL REFEREES



The EFA President; Mr. Adam Mthethwa

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has declared her continuous support towards the development of local referees in the country. This was uttered by the President of EFA Adam Mthethwa during the recently completed FIFA MA Refereeing Course that took place from the 6th - 10th August 2018 at the Technical Centre.

"As EFA, we are in full support of the local referees and more especially their development"; Mthethwa said. He also highlighted that the football association is also excited in witnessing people who show some commitment in becoming very good referees. "As EFA we are also very happy to see people who have the intention of being very good referees; thus EFA is proud of the local referees in a order to be one; you have to be brave and also we have to consider the fact that it is very difficult to recruit referees"; Mthethwa concluded.

scored two brilliant goals on the day. "I like football a lot as I started playing this game when I was in grade two"; Bhembe said. Also during these championships; there was a rose among thorns in as far as the coaches were concerned. The Manzini Sundowns FC coach, Zandile Bulunga was the only female coach of-which she is still the only lady coach participating in these BuildIt sponsored championships. "I am a former player for Kappa Ladies FC and due to the love of the sport, I decided to do coaching; thus I am the coach of Manzini Sundowns U 13 team"; Bulunga said. She also urged other girls to be involved in football as it is an entertaining sport.



Royal Leopards FC's Vunokuhle Dube

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) gave these girls' participation in these championships thumbs up as it embraces the football association's effort in the development of the game in the country and more especially women's football. "This is encouraging and also good for the development of Women's football in the country as more participation of the girl-child in this programme will unearth more talented players who will end up playing in the Women's Football League and ultimately the women national team"; Mngomezulu said.

FIFA HOSTS THE MA YOUTH COACHING COURSE

The development of youth players is one of the vital development aspects of the beautiful game as they are the future players. In order for these youth players to be properly developed; it is very much important to effectively develop the youth coaches; thus the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) through FIFA facilitated the FIFA MA Youth Coaching Course for

twenty- five local youth coaches. This course was held as from the 16th -20th July 2018 at the Technical Centre in Lobamba.



EFA'S TD Bhekisisa Mkhonta, FIFA Instructor Serama Letsoaka, EFA's President Adam Mthethwa and EFA's CEO Frederick Mngomezulu

The FIFA instructor for this course was South African born Serama Letsoaka who is currently the Technical Director for the Botswana Football Association. The President of EFA Adam Mthethwa applauded FIFA for facilitating this course as it will enhance the development of football in the country. "Youth coaches are very important in the development of football in the country as they develop future players; thus the importance of this coaching course"; Mthethwa said. As EFA's core business is about the development of football in the country, the President stated that it is for this reason that whatever the football association does is for the benefit of the clubs and players.



Some of the participants of the course

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of EFA Frederick Mngomezulu echoed the President's words as he also acknowledged FIFA for granting EFA the rights for hosting this important coaching course. "Let me acknowledge FIFA for granting EFA the rights for hosting this course as it is important for the development of football in the country"; Mngomezulu said. He also

emphasized that, development is what will improve the standard of the game in the country.

INVEST IN THE YOUTH- FIFA INSTRUCTOR

The FIFA Youth Coaching Course Instructor, Serame Letsoaka has called for more investment in the youth for the effective development of football in the country. He was speaking after the closure of the recently held FIFA MA Youth Coaching Course. "It is vital that you water the roots not the leaves as the youth are the future players; thus I call for the football association and the other stakeholders of football to invest in the youth or grassroots football as that is where the future of the beautiful game is based"; Letsoaka said.

The experience football coach and FIFA Instructor is also certain that with such courses the sky is the limit for the development of new players in the country who can compete in any league in the world. He also acknowledged the football association for the excellent hospitality and wonderful coordination of this course.



FIFA Instructor Serame Letsoaka

"It took me 17 years and 114 days to become an overnight success"- Lionel Messi.

CHARITY WAS THE WINNER

As the Saturday, 4th August 2018 drew closer; the tension amongst the 4 participating teams in the main competition of the “Cup of Hope” approached the boiling point. With the new signings that Mbabane Highlanders FC did, the expectations were sky high for the black bull as the team is affectionately known. Their arch-rivals, Mbabane Swallows FC may have lost a number of key players; but the confidence was still high for the beautiful birds. The army side, Young Buffaloes was also oozing with confidence as they were looking forward in ending the jinx that they always face when playing against Mbabane Swallows FC. Having eliminated Mbabane Highlanders FC out of the Swazi Bank Cup, Manzini Wanderers was hoping that lightning was going to strike twice on the same place when they face the black bull in the opening match of the day. One millions Emalangeneni was at stake for the champions of this competition.



Mbabane Highlanders captain Xolani Sibandze and Mbabane Swallows FC Captain Tony Tsabedze wishing each other good luck before the EPTC Charity Cup Finals.

Prior to the Yam’Nawe Finals, the Managing Director (MD) of Eswatini Post & Telecommunication (EPTC) Petros Dlamini described this competition as the country’s mini-world cup after the successful completion of the FIFA World Cup. “In the recently completed FIFA World Cup; a lot of goals were scored and we have already witnessed that in the preliminary phase of-which we are looking

forward in seeing more goals in the main event”; Dlamini said. Indeed that was true as a total of 12 goals were scored during the Yam’Nawe EPTC Charity Cup Finals. As an icing on the cake, the first 2018/19 main Mbabane derby was witnessed as Mbabane Highlanders FC played against Mbabane Swallows FC. What a humdinger of a football festival that was graced by His Majesty King Mswati III. Mbabane Swallows FC was the last team standing in both the main and the U20 competitions respectively as they successfully defended their titles.

#Yam’ Nawe EPTC Charity Cup.



His Majesty King Mswati III with the EPTC staff during the prize presentation ceremony of the EPTC Charity Cup competition.

EFA ACKNOWLEDGES HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and the football family at large have acknowledged the presence of His Majesty King Mswati III for gracing the Eswatini Post & Telecommunication (EPTC) Charity Cup tournament. His Majesty King Mswati III was one of the thousands of people who witnessed the 17th edition of the EPTC Charity Cup. “As football association and family, we are humbled by His Majesty’s attendance”; read a press statement from EFA.

The football association also thanked His Majesty King Mswati III’s Government for the new and improved lightning system at the Somhlolo National Stadium. “The EFA also sincerely extend her voice of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III’s Government for the upliftment of the Somhlolo National Stadium through the witnessed hand-over and the maiden usage of the new and improved lightning system in the field of play”; read part of the statement.

Further appreciation went to the Head of Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, his Cabinet and Civil Service, EPTC, Football Family, Invited Guest, Fans and the Media for being part of this historic event. “The turnout and attendance was a testimonial to the edition’s slogan as everyone contributed to the course of uplifting the disadvantaged souls of the country”; the statement read.

EFA CONGRATULATES THE EPTC CHARITY CUP CHAMPIONS

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) have congratulated the champions of the Eswatini Telecomms Charity Cup. These champions are Mbabane Swallows FC Senior and U20 teams respectively. “The EFA would like to congratulate the champions; Mbabane Swallows FC, both the Senior and U20 teams respectively for successfully defending their titles in both competitions”; read the statement from EFA. Further congratulations went to the other participating teams as they also played very well and they were capable enough to be champions on the day. The sponsors and the EPTC Charity Cup Organizing Committee were also given a pat on their back for presenting a well-coordinated programme since this edition’s launch up to its very end.



The champions of the 2018 EPTC Charity Cup, Mbabane Swallows FC posing before the derby final.

LOCAL REFEREEING INSTRUCTOR URGED TO SUPPORT LOCAL REFEREES

The FIFA Referees Instructor and CAF Referees Committee Member Felix Tangawarima has urged the local Referees Instructors to support the local referees as there is a lot that they can learn from them. He said this during the opening ceremony of the MA FIFA Refereeing Course that took place on the 6th -10th August 2018 at the Technical Centre in Lobamba. "I urge the local Referees Instructors to support the local referees as there is a lot that they can learn from them thus enhancing their development"; Tangawarima said.



FIFA Instructor Felix Tangawarima flanked by EFA President Adam Mthethwa (left) and EFA's CEO Frederick Mngomezulu (right).

EFA HOSTS THE FIFA MA REFEREEING COURSE

The Eswatini Football Association through the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) hosted the MA FIFA Refereeing Course for the local elite football referees. This course commenced on the 6th July-10th August 2018 at the technical centre in Lobamba.



Thulani Sibandze in action under the watchful eye of the FIFA Instructor Bento Navasse during the practicals of the FIFA MA Refereeing Course.

This course commenced with a referees physical fitness test under the watchful eye of two FIFA Refereeing Instructors. These were Felix Tangawarima and Bento Navasse and they were assisted by the local refereeing instructors. According to Felix Tangawarima;

the course work was 80% practical oriented with the rest being the theoretical aspect. "It was a very high intensive week for the referees as the course was practically oriented, reason being that the referees can easily master the theory part however a lot of error are committed in the field of play and they can be limited by doing more practical work during such courses"; he said. The major focus was on the movement of the referees on the field of play.



EFA President Adam Mthethwa, FIFA Instructor Felix Tangawarima and the EFA Instructors posing with the participants after the course.

MAKHOSINI HIGH SCHOOL –CHAMPIONS OF THE SCHOOLS WOMEN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The National Championships of the Schools Women Football Development Programme witnessed new champions as Mmakhosini High School from the Shiselweni Region was crowned champions. Interestingly enough, on their way to the finals, they defeated the defending champions Elangaeni High School by 2-1 and won the final match against Hillside High School by 2-0 thus being crowned champions.



Action during the Schools Women Football National Championships at the Waterford College.

During this event a total of 12 high schools from the 4 regions of the country who qualified from the regional phase of this football development programme participated. These schools were Nkalashane, Ntfontjeni, Herefords,

Makhosini, Oslo, Etjendlovu, Elangeni, Waterford, St. Mary's, Hillside, Ngwane Park and Mjingo High schools. The best player for this competition was Nomcebo Hlatjwako (Hillside High School); the top goal scorer was S'bongile Gwebu (Elangeni High School); and the best goal keeper was Amanda Simelane (Makhosini High School).

LOBAMBA NATIONAL DOMINATES IN THE FUTSAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Futsal is a 5-a-side football that is played in a small pitch either in-doors or out-doors most preferable in courts. This sport immensely contributes to the development of a player thus Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has implemented the futsal development programme in schools. This year's programme commenced from the zonal phase with the nation stages being the climax of this development programme.

Under the primary schools categories; there were U13 boys and U15 girls competition. In both categories; Lobamba National Primary School was crowned champions. As for the high schools categories; there were U17 boys and U19 girls competition respectively. In the boys competition, Lobamba National High School won the championship whilst in the girls competition the championship was won by St. Mary's High School.



Mjingo High School in action against Lobamba National during the Futsal National Championships

According to the Technical Director of EFA Bhekisisa Mkhonta; these championships were a huge success. He also highlighted that the major aim for this football development programme is to have futsal being played country-wide and also produce good players. "Our aim is to have this sport being played country-wide and also produce quality players"; Mkhonta said.

WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- EFA hosts a sports medicine course
- Sitsebe SaMhlekaizi prepares for COSAFA
- Sihlangu SeMnikati prepares for Tunisia.



UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- TOTAL AFCON 2019 Qualifier match (Eswatini Vs Tunisia).
- International Youth Championships.
- FIFA MA Goalkeeping Course