



SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

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

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

HIS MAJESTY THE KING MSWATI III GRACE THE SMVA INGWENYAMA CUP FINAL



His Majesty King Mswati III and Former President of The Republic of South Africa Mr. Jacob Zuma presenting Young Buffaloes FC with the Ingwenyama Cup trophy

The patron of the richest football competition in the Eswatini land; His Majesty The King Mswati III graced the 2018/19 Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) Finals which was a successful event.

This majestic event was held at the Somhlolo National in Lobamba on Sunday, 2019.

Also present during this event was the former South African President, Jacob Zuma. Other dignitaries were the Royal Household, Head of Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Cabinet Ministers and Civil Service, Members of both Houses of Parliament and Chiefs just to mention just a few. This was an event fit for Royalty as the Eswatini nation supported it with the

YOUNG BUFFALOES FC ARE THE NEW CHAMPIONS OF THE SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP COMPETITION AND THEY ARE THE SECOND FOOTBALL CLUB TO BE CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THIS LUCRATIVE COMPETITION.

stadium full to capacity. Emaswati showcased their football and cultural skills not only to Eswatini but the globe at large as the event was also televised live. This is one indication that this competition is growing.

On the day, the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup was presented to the new

Champions in both the football and the culture categories. Young Buffaloes FC demolished Mbabane Highlanders FC 4-1 on the day which was the main activity of the event. After the dominance of Mbabane Swallows FC in this competition, the army side is now the new champions of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

"Asakhulile Amathole". Congratulations Young Buffaloes FC and all the champions in the Culture category. #Buckle up.

EFA ACKNOWLEDGES HIS MAJESTY THE KING MSWATI III



The EFA President; Adam Mthethwa

The Eswatini Football Association and football family through the office of the President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa has extended a special tribute and momentous gratitude to His Majesty The King Mswati III together with the Royal Household for gracing the 4th edition of the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVA) Ingwenyama Cup Competition.

"As a football association and family, we are always greatly humbled by His Majesty's attendance"; said the EFA President. He also stated that the presence of His Majesty The King gave this even the glamour and Royal Extravagance that it deserves and also the presence of the former President of the Republic Of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma added more glamour and international status that this event deserves.

Further appreciation by the President was for the Head of Government Of the Kingdom of Eswatini, his Cabinet, Members of both Houses of Parliament, Chiefs, the Sponsor and other stakeholders.

WE PLAY TO WIN-EFA PRESIDENT

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President Mr. Adam Mthethwa says that's whenever the national teams play in the international competitions, they do so to win.

"When national team players play in any competition they do so to win"; Mthethwa said. The EFA President made this remarks during the farewell function of Sihlangu before the national team went to Tunisia for the final match of the 2019 TOTAL Afcon Qualifiers.



Sabelo "Sikhali" Ndzinisa celebrating one of his goals he scored for Sihlangu

"As national teams, we play for the country thus the importance to represent the nation very well"; said the EFA President. The President also highlighted that it is of paramount importance that the national teams performs very well in international competitions as this will also market the country very well.

PAPIC –CONFIDENT AHEAD OF THE TUNISIA MATCH

The Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic has a positive mentality ahead of the 2019 TOTAL AFCON Match against Tunisia in Tunis. Even though Tunisia in one of the power houses of Africa, the experienced coach highlighted that nothing is impossible in football. "In football, nothing is impossible"; he said. The head coach believes in his players that they can shock the African continent and the world by coming up with a positive result in this official international match.

"In a football match, it is eleven players against eleven, playing in a football pitch where the grass is green and there are two goal posts with one match ball being

played and the match will start at 0-0 with 90 minutes to played as official time frame of the game"; Papic said. By this words according to him, both national teams are capable of winning the match regardless of Eswatini being under-dogs in this match.

FELIX BADENHORST – NEW SIHLANGU CAPTAIN

Sihlangu head coach, Kostadin Plapic has named Felix Badenhost to be the new Sihlangu captain just ahead of the Tunisia trip for the last match of the TOTAL AFCON Qualifier match. Badenhorst is also the captain of Mbombela United FC which is competing in the South African First Division. "Felix is a good player with a lot of experience of which he is capable enough to be the captain of the national team.



Sihlangu Captain Felix Badenhorst in action against Egypt

"I feel very much humble for this new assignment that I have been tasked with by the national team coach"; said Felix Badenhorst. The player highlighted that for playing for the national team is a great honor on its own and being a captain is a bonus for him. Fela as he is also known is one of the experienced players in the national team as he has also played in the top interclub football in the continent.

MANGALISO DUBE GETS HIS BURSARY FROM BUILD IT

"For us, it is not about cement but it's about nation building", said BuildIt Regional Manager, Anton Wassenaar during the educational bursary presentation to Mangaliso Dube who was the best player for the 2017/18 U13 BuildIt National Championship.



Mangaliso Dube receiving his bursary from BuildIt in the presence of EFA's CEO Frederick Mngomezulu, the TD, his father and coach

This young lad is currently doing form one at St. John Bosco High School and he is also a Royal Leopards Junior Team player. In the same event, BuildIt also hailed the partnership that she has with the Eswatini Football Association as this programme plays a vital role towards football development and nation building in the country.

BUILDIT HAS BEEN A FRIEND TO FOOTBALL

The EFA president has described BuildIt as not only being a sponsor of the football association but also as being a friend. This is because the relationship that the two organizations are having is a very long and solid one. Over and above this, both organizations have common goals in as far as this partnership is concerned. "BuildIt is not only a sponsor to the EFA but is a friend to football considering the relationship with the football association and the partnership that the organization is having with football.

The President of EFA also highlighted that both the EFA and BuildIt have common goals which includes the development of football and the Eswatini community.

FOCUS ON FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF THE EFA

MBABANE U13 FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) in collaboration with the Mbabane Municipality hosted the U13 Futsal Competition on Friday, 15th March 2019 at the Prince of Wales in the capital city of the country. The participants in this competition were the primary schools from Mbabane and her surroundings.

“The main purpose of this event is to sensitize the sport to schools as this was a one day event”; said the Technical Director (TD) of EFA, Bhekisisa Mkhonta. A total of ten primary schools participated in this event whereby each school had a boys and girls teams respectively. The participating schools were; St.Marks, SOS, Montssori Life, Elangeni, KaShiele, Entuthukweni, John Wesley, Sifundzani, Fentein and Mbabane Central Primary Schools..



Action during the U13 Mbabane Futsal Competition

The TD of EFA highlighted that Futsal plays a vital role towards the development of a player as this players find it much easier when they decide to play in the 11v 11 match. “Futsal is played under an extreme pressure as the playing pitch is very small thus each team is allowed to have a total of five players. Also, this sport demands a lot of movements of the ball, speed and dribbling which are very much important in a football player”; the TD said.

In this one day event; John Wesley boys team and Mbabane Central girls team were the last teams standing as they were crowned champions respectively.



Grassroots festival conducted at the Sydney Williams Primary Schools

EFA CONDUCTS GRASSROOTS WORKSHOPS

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) is currently conducting grassroots workshops around the country. These workshops are facilitated by the Technical Department of the football association as a way of empowering teaches about this football development programme as football is a dynamic sport.



Technical Director of the Eswatini Football Association, Bhekisisa Mkhonta

The grassroots football Development is targeted to children between the ages of 6-12 years old thus the participants are primary school teachers. According to the Technical Director of Eswatini Football Association (EFA), Bhekisisa Mkhonta these workshops are very important as they equip the teachers who are also coaches with the relevant skills necessary for the successful implementation of the programme as per the expected standards. “The grassroots development programme is a vital project as it is where the children are

introduced to the game of football thus it is important for the teachers to do the right thing when implementing this programme in schools”; the TD said.

REFEREES PHYSICALLY TESTED DURING THE INTERNATIONAL FIFA WEEK

On Sunday, 24th March 2019 all the referees that do duty for the MTN Premier League and National First Division matches participated in the physical fitness test at the Somhlolo National Stadium. This event happened during the FIFA International week break.



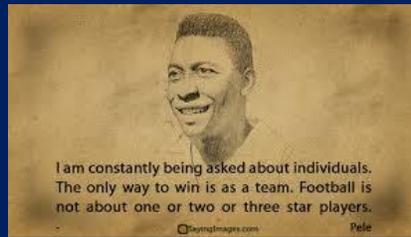
As per the Federation of International Football association (FIFA) standards, referees are expected to be at a higher level when it comes to their physical fitness condition. “Referees physical fitness tests are held after every three months as per FIFA’s requirements in order to make it a point that referees are always on top of their game”; said Dumsani Hadebe the Eswatini Football Association’s physical fitness instructor.



Referees running during the physical fitness test

WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- The traditional Mbabane derby.
- Build up to the Eswatini Bank Cup Quarter Finals.



UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- MTN Premier League matches
- Eswatini Bank Cup last 8.

