



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

*"Living the Football Spirit and Our Pride"*

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## SIHLANGU ELIMINATES MALAWI IN THE CHAN COMPETITION



Sihlangu SeMnikati before the Total CHAN qualifier match against Malawi that was played at the Mavuso Sports Centre

Sihlangu SeMnikati made the nation proud by eliminating Malawi senior men's national team popularly known as The Flames in the Total CHAN competition. After playing to a goalless draw on home soil, the Kostadin Papic led national team needed a minimum of a score draw away from home in Blantyre, Malawi to advance to the next round of the competition.

The Malawians were very much confident that they will finish their business on their backyard in Mmalawi. Before their departure to Malawi, Sihlangu made a bold promise to the nation that they will do everything possible to make the nation proud. "We are going to Malawi to fight and do everything humanly possible to qualify to the next round of the competition"; said the Serbian born Sihlangu Head Coach Kostadin Papic. Indeed

**"WE ARE GOING TO MALAWI TO FIGHT AND DO EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO QUALIFY TO THE NEXT ROUND OF THE COMPETITION** **"--KOSTADIN PAPIC.**

they meant business as they were the first one to strike at goal at the Kamuzu Banda Stadium through the thunderous shot of Sandile Gamedze. This goal gave the local lads some belief that they can do it.

The Malawian's applied more pressure to the local side and they were able to get their equalizer through Mhone. They applied even more pressure in search of the winning goal only for the Banele Dlamini who is also the skipper of the national team to absorb the pressure until the final whistle of the match which confirmed Eswatini's advancement to the next round of the competition through the away goal rule. The next match for the national team in the competition will be in July against Angola with the first leg scheduled to be a home match for Sihlangu. The finals of this competition will be held next year in Cameroon with the COSAFA region having only three slots in this competition.

## EFA ACKNOWLEDGES HIS MAJESTY THE KING MSWATI III



**The EFA President; Mr. Adam Mthethwa**

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) extended a special tribute and momentous gratitude to His Majesty The King Mswati III together with the Royal Household for gracing the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Eswatini Bank Cup Finals, which decorated the winners of the 2019 Eswatini Bank Cup Competition. "As football association and family, we are always greatly humbled by His Majesty's presence"; said EFA's President Mr. Adam Mthethwa.

The presence of His Majesty The King Mswati III gave the event the glamour and Royal Extravagance. Even though the game of football has the potential of unifying people; the presence of His Majesty The King Mswati III endorsed the unifying factor of the nation and this added the majestic value and ensured the success of the event; Mthethwa said.

### THREE EFA'S ADMINISTRATORS ATTENDED A FIFA STADIUM SAFETY WORKSHOP

When hosting an event; safety and security are some of the priorities that guarantees the success of that particular activity. A football match is one of the numerous events that has the potential of bringing people together in one place thus the importance of safety and security in stadiums.

The successful implementation of a football match requires a lot of planning. It is for this matter that before the hosting of a football match; a meeting is of an essence so that critical issues are being discussed and relevant resources are put into place of which security and safety resources are one of them.



EFA's Executive Member Mr. Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, Security Officer Ms Xolile Vilakati and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dr. Comfort Shongwe. This is why the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) capacitated her members on stadium safety and security workshop which was an event that was held in Johannesburg in the Republic of South Africa. The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) was represented by the Senior Vice President and the Chairman of the EFA's Competitions Committee, Dr. Comfort Shongwe; Executive Member of the EFA Mr. Sikhumbuzo Dlamini and the recently

trained EFA's Stadium Security Officer Ms Xolile Vilakati.

"During this workshop; we were workshopped on sports ground safety authority; overall principles of safety; and the current issues and future requirements of CAF safety and security among other topics"; Shongwe said

### REFEREES PHYSICALLY TESTED

The level of fitness is not only important to football players; but it is of an essence even for the referees. In a football match; a referee always follows the action and is expected to be spot on in decision making.

As per FIFA's refereeing standards; a referee is expected to be physically fit. It is for this reason that referees are regularly tested with their reports sent to FIFA. "All referees officiating in official football competitions are expected to participate and assure their physical fitness standards in order for them to be compliant in the execution of their duties"; said EFA's Referees Manager, Sifiso Zondo.

The referees that participate in this event were referees who did not participate in the physical fitness test conducted on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019. "When the previous physical fitness test was conducted; some of the referees were not present due to various reasons, including those that had been appointed to officiate in international competitions that were being implemented by CAF during the said period"; Zondo said.

### CAF HOSTS CLUB LICENSING WORKSHOP

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) hosted the CAF Club Licensing Regional Workshop in Uganda. This course started on the 25<sup>th</sup> and will end on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) was represented by the Club Licensing and Registration Manager Ms. Ntombifuthi Dlamini and the Chairman

of the Club Licensing Committee Mr. Elphas Ngcamphalala.



### ONE ESWATINI REFEREE FOR COSAFA COMPETITION

"Hard work pays". These were the words of Zamani Thula Simelane in reaction to the assignment that he got from the Council of Southern African Football Association (COSAFA). Simelane is the only referee from Eswatini who was officiating during the 2019 COSAFA Senior Men's competition.



**FIFA accredited assistant referee; Zamani Simelane**

The football association congratulated Simelane on his appointment. "The EFA congratulates Mr. Simelane on his appointment to officiate in the region's pinnacle football competition, which the EFA hopes will bring motivation to him and the rest of his colleagues and prospective referees to perform better and scale to greater heights"; said the Chief Executive Officer of the EFA Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu.

## FOCUS ON SIHLANGU IN THE COSAFA SENIOR CHALLENGE

### EFA PRESIDENT MEETS SIHLANGU IN DURBAN

On his capacity as being the Honouree Vice President of the Council of South African Football Association (COSAFA); the Eswatini Football Association's (EFA's) President Mr. Adam Mthethwa took his valuable time and met the Senior Men's National Team (Sihlangu) at the Garden Court Marine Parade in Durban after the final match of the national team in this year's edition of the COSAFA Senior Challenge. Sihlangu was eliminated in the COSAFA Cup after playing a 2 all draw with both Mauritius and Comoros respectively.



EFA's President Mr. Adam Mthethwa after meeting Sihlangu at the Garden Court Marine Parade in Durban during the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge.

"You played two games in the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge which both of them ended with a draw; but the Eswatini nation is still fully behind you"; Mthethwa said. The EFA President also urged the national team to soldier on and not lose hope as there are still other competitions that they can use to redeem themselves. Finally he wished the national team the very best of luck in the future. Sihlangu will be in action again in the Total CHAN qualifier match against Angola on the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the Mavuso Sports Centre with the away match to take place on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Angola.

### KOSTADIN PAPIC BELIEVES IN HIS PLAYERS

The Senior Men's National Team Head Coach, Kostadin Papic is pleased with the performance of his players thus far, which is why he still believes in them. "I am pleased with my players and I believe in them"; said the Serbian born coach after the match against Comoros in the COSAFA Senior Challenge in Durban. Papic highlighted that the players are improving in their play and they did very well in the two matches that they have played in the on-going COSAFA Senior Challenge.



### Sihlangu Head Coach, Kostadin Papic

His words were echoed by some Sihlangu fans through the Eswatini Football Association's facebook page whereby some of them expressed a lot of delight towards the performance of the national team. Having said that; both the Head Coach and the fans did show their concerns on the defensive errors made by the national team in recent matches. In this year's COSAFA Senior Challenge Sihlangu scored 4 goals and also considered the same number of goals. "We are able to score goals which is good; but what is strange is that we also concede goals cheaply for that matter"; Papic said. The conceded goals had an adverse impact of the national team in the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge as they were eliminated in the group stages.



Sihlangu players celebrating after scoring a goal against Mauritius.

on the field of play without having had any contact with another player or moving ball, is to be regarded as SCA with immediate response onto the field of play and activation of the emergency medical plan"; Mdluli concluded.

### FELIX TALLY WITH PETER NDLOVU

Sihlangu's midfielder, Felix Badenhorst is now the COSAFA Cup's joint all-time top goal scorer with the Zimbabwean football legend Peter Ndlovu as both of them have 8 goals a-piece. Before the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge kicked off; Badenhorst had 6 goals in the tournament and the goals that he scored in this year's edition made him the joint all-time top goal scorer. He scored one goal in the opening match against Mauritius and another one against Comoros.



Felix Badenhorst receiving his man of the match award after the match against Comoros



As an icing on the cake; Badernhost won the man of the match award during the match against Comoros. The lanky lad acknowledged his achievement however he could be more excited had Sihlangu qualified for the quarter finals of the tournament. "It is a big achievement for me; however, I could have been more excited had the national team qualified for the quarter finals"; he said.

#### WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER?

This is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activities than the expenses. All other players are considered to be amateurs. A player registered as a professional may not register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.



Justice Figueredo of Maritzburg United FC

If a professional player ends his/ her career upon expiry of the contract; he/she shall remain registered at the association of the last club for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day of the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

#### WOMEN NATIONAL TEAMS PREPARES FOR COSAFA WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Senior Women and U20 national teams commenced their preparations for the upcoming COSAFA tournament that will be played in August. Both the Senior and U20 championships will be played in Port Elizabeth in the Republic of South Africa.



Sitsebe meeting the Mozambican Senior Women National Team before Kick-off.

Both national teams commenced their preparations on a bad note as they lost to the Mozambicans. Sitsebe lost by 4-1 whilst the U20s lost by 3-0.

#### U20 AND U17 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAMS HOST LESOTHO

The U20 and U17 Men's National teams hosted Lesotho respectively on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as both national teams prepares for the upcoming COSAFA Championships respectively. The U17 COSAFA Championships will be held in Malawi in September whilst the U20 COSAFA Championships will be held in Zambia in December. The U20s lost the first match by an odd goal whilst the second match ended with a

1-1 draw. The U17s lost the first match by 2-1 and won the last match by an odd goal.

#### WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE?

- We focus on the EFA's Ordinary General Assembly.
- Sports Medicine and Administration Graduation ceremony.
- EFA'S Senior Officials attends FIFA's Ordinary General Assembly.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- EFA's Ordinary General Assembly.
- Registration workshops.
- Schools Women Football Development Programme.



Delegates during an Ordinary General Assembly

