



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

*"Living the Football Spirit and Our Pride"*

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## MBABANE HIGHLANDERS FC-CHAMPIONS OF THE 2019 EPTC CHARITY CUP



His Majesty King Mswati III and other dignitaries posing with the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Champions.

On Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporations (EPTC) hosted the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals at the Somhlolo National Stadium; and this event was attended by His Majesty King Mswati III, Royal Household, Cabinet and Civil Service, Members of both Houses of Parliament, Chiefs, Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporations Board, Management and staff, football family and invited guests just to mention but a few.

Four teams were competing on this day. These teams were Royal Leopards FC, Mbabane Highlanders FC, Manzini Wanderers FC playing and Mbabane Swallows FC. Mbabane Highlanders FC was crowned champions after defeating Manzini Wanderers in the finals by 3-1. Highlanders qualified to the finals after defeating Royal Leopards by 7-6 after sudden death penalties whilst Manzini Wanderers were

the finalists after winning against Mbabane Swallows FC 1-0.

Joseph Lokota of Mbabane Highlanders FC was the top goal scorer after scored brace(2) in the finals and 1 goal against Royal Leopards FC in the first semi-final of the tournament. For their championship; Mbabane Highlanders got gold medals ,floating trophy and a cheque of E1 100 000.00.

By winning this championship; Mbabane Highlanders FC ended their silverware draught. Over 15 thousands (15 000) people crammed the Somhlolo National Stadium in support of the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals. The high attendance of football fans and high quality of football artistry by all the teams who participated in this tournament made charity and football to be the ultimate winner as it was the plea from His Majesty's Government, Football and EPTC Families.

**OVER FIFTEEN (15)  
THOUSANDS PEOPLE  
CRAMMED SOMHLOLO  
NATIONAL STADIUM IN  
SUPPORT OF THE 2019 EPTC  
CHARITY CUP FINALS.**

EFA ACKNOWLEDGES THE PRESENCE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III DURING THE 16<sup>TH</sup> EPTC CHARITY CUP



*The EFA President, Mr Adam Mthethwa*

The Eswatini Football Association and football family extend special gratitude to His Majesty the King Mswati III together with Royal Household for gracing the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals. "As football association, we are always humbled by the His Majesty's presence", the President of EFA Mr. Adam Mthethwa said.

"The presence of His Majesty gave the event heightened prestige and glamour and also endorsed the unifying of the nation and this added Majestic value and ensured the success of the event. Bayethe Wena WaPhakathi !!", Mthethwa said.

He further acknowledged the high attendance of football fans and congratulated the champions; Mbabane Highlanders FC. "None of these could have been a success without the sponsors ", he added.

## HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III GRACE THE 16<sup>TH</sup> EPTC CHARITY FINALS

According to His Majesty King Mswati III, when interviewed during the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals at the Somhlolo National Stadium, He appreciated the work done by Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporations for hosting this tournament. "Charity cup is not just about football but it is an opportunity to help the needy", His Majesty King Mswati III said.



His Majesty King Mswati III during the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals.

Moreover, His Majesty The King Mswati III stated that sport is good and everyone must do it to live longer; and it also keeps the youth focused and away from crime. His Majesty also states that a feasibility study is being conducted in order to build a new bigger stadium in the country. "There is a feasibility study that is currently taking place as there is a need for a new and bigger stadium"; His Majesty The King said.

## I AM HERE TO DELIVER- HIGHLANDER'S CHAIRMAN ALLY KGOMONGWE

The Mbabane Highlander's Chairman Mr. Ally Kgomongwe has made a declaration in reaction to his side's success in the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup. He appreciated the work done by Mbabane Highlanders FC and he thanked God for everything. "It feels great and I thank God for everything. If you believe in him everything is possible", the Chairman of Mbabane Highlanders FC Mr. Ally Kgomongwe said. He was so excited to have delivered a trophy within a short space of time after coming on board in May this year.

Kgomongwe highlighted that he joined Mbabane Highlanders FC in May and only two months he brought a cup which is amazing. "I am here to deliver. Highlanders is united and I want them to deliver", Kgomongwe said. He made his remarks after the 2019 Charity Cup Finals in celebration of the work done by his team. He appreciated the work done by management and technical bench as preparations were very good and they were able to motivate the players.



Mbabane highlander's Chairman Mr. Ally Kgomongwe celebrating his victory.

Ally expressed hope that this showed a good start of good things to come which means that they have to continue building a strong family. "We need to remain calm and focus on supporting the team and the players", he said.

Over and above, he stated that his wish is to take all the cups. He further highlighted that the teams in the Kingdom of Eswatini who are currently dominating are the forces teams and they need to come up with a unique strategy to encounter them. "I didn't mind signing top quality players because once you sign them you get good results", he added.

## YEAR OF MBABANE HIGHLANDERS- HIGHLANDER'S PRO MR. PAUL "MAGIDZA" MASILELA

The Mbabane Highlander FC PRO Mr. Paul "Magidzeludzakeni" Masilela is very happy about the work done by Highlanders. When

interviewed after the 2019 Charity Cup Finals he acknowledged the support of Mr Ally, Management, and the technical bench, for a job well done. "This is the year of Mbabane Highlanders", Masilela said. He also highlighted that winning this cup is the great achievement and it showed that their players were prepared for this competitions.



Mbabane Highlander's PRO Mr. Paul "Magidza" Masilela posing during the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup Finals.

Moreover, he quoted "the Great Kgomongwe" to be like the Biblical Moses as he takes the Highlanders out of Gybithe to Canaan. He also highlighted that before these matches they came across many problems but with trust and working very hard, they were able to fight and win this cup. He further quoted Jeremiah 17:7 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him", he added.

## HIGHLANDERS HEAD COACH ELOGIZES EFA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Head Coach of Mbabane Highlanders FC; Mr. Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini has acknowledged the work done by football association by empowering them through a well implemented coaching education system. He highlighted that these system has helped him to grow in his coaching career. Dlamini also disclosed that their secret behind this success as a team was proper organization. "As Highlanders we are organized and disciplined in all most every angle. We treat players equally and communication is key. Over and above we are creative in our football style", Dlamini said.

## FOCUS ON EFA'S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### WE WANT TO PREPARE AND SEE OUR REFEREES OFFICIATING AT A HIGHEST LEVEL-EFA'S PRESIDENT

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has acknowledged the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) for the perfectly implemented FIFA MA Refereeing Course that took place at the Technical Centre in Lobamba on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. This was disclosed by the President of EFA Mr. Adam Mthethwa during the opening ceremony of the FIFA MA Refereeing Course.



EFA'S President Mr. Adam Mthethwa during the FIFA MA Refereeing Course.

When addressing the audience the EFA'S President welcomed the instructors and wished them a good stay in the country. He also acknowledged the commitment of the referees as they execute their duties. He highlighted that as EFA; the development of referees is one of the pillars the football association and they want to see the referees officiating at the highest level. "We want to prepare and to see our referees officiating at the highest level", Mthethwa said. He further wished the FIFA instructors and referees/participants a successful course. "I hope by the end of the week you will have learnt a lot", Mthethwa added.

Over and above, the instructor Mr. Ali Mohamed Ahmed expressed FIFA's commitment in the development of referees in the country. "On behalf of FIFA I am very much honoured to be here and FIFA is very happy to

follow the referees of Eswatini", Mohamed said. He highlighted that the participants looked committed in benefiting from this course. He also congratulated the referees for passing the physical fitness test and wished them a successful course. "I hope by the end of this week, you will feel a bit difference and you will have benefited on the theoretical and practical aspects of refereeing", he added

### REFEREES ACKNOWLEDGES FIFA AND EFA

The referees who were participants of the FIFA MA Refereeing Course acknowledged the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) AND Eswatini Football Association (EFA) for giving them such opportunity. "As referees, we would like to acknowledge FiFA and EFA for giving us this opportunity to participate in this course. We thank the FIFA Instructors and Local Instructors for the work they have done to this course", said Mr. Thulani Sibandze who spoke on behalf of the participants during the closing ceremony of the FIFA MA Refereeing Course.



Mr. Thulani Sibandze making his remarks on behalf of the participants during the closing ceremony of the FIFA MA Refereeing course.

He also highlighted that this course was productive and fruitful in both physical and technical aspects and believed that with what they have achieved as Eswatini referees it will make them the best referees locally and internationally. "As referees we must remember that there is no gain without pay, so our duty is to work hard in order to make progress in our career", Sibandze added.

### ROYAL LEOPARDS CHAMPS OF THE MATSAPHA U-13 BUILD IT CHAMPIONSHIP



Royal Leopards posing after being crowned the champions of the Matsapha U-13 Build it Championship

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) in collaboration with Build it hosted the 2019 U-13 Matsapha Build it Championship at the Matsapha Correctional Services Sports Ground.

A total of 33 goals were scored out of 18 matches. Eight (8) teams were competing on this day. These teams were Super 16, Chelsea, Kicks, Bafundisi, Royal Leopards, Professionals, Malandela and Spikiri. Royal Leopards FC U-13 team were crowned champions after defeating Bafundisi FC in the finals by 2-0. Royal Leopards FC qualified to the finals after defeating Chelsea FC by 4-0 whilst Bafundisi FC were the finalists after winning against Malandela FC by 1-0. For their championship; Royal Leopards FC got individual trophies, vuvuzelas, and water bottles, branded bags and a trophy whilst Bafundisi got individual trophies, vuvuzelas, water bottles and soccer bags. The best player was Njabulo Ngcamphalala of Royal Leopards FC who won himself a trophy. "I am very much excited to be a champion and also the best player of the tournament. I thank Build it for such an opportunity", Ngcamphalala said.

Indeed Build it is really building the nation through this football development programme. Seeing youngsters playing football with such spirit and pride; show that there is a lot of talent in the country.



## THE WORLD CUP DRAW CONDUCTED

Only 28 of the continent's teams ; those ranked lowest in July's edition of the FIFA /Coca-Cola World Ranking were involved in the draw. Those sides were paired off for home and away knockout fixtures to be played between 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The 14 winners will join the continent's top ranked 26 sides, who have been exempted from the initial round of qualifiers. Those 40 teams will then be split into ten groups of four for the second qualifying round. The ten winners of those groups will then be drawn against each other in home and away fixtures, with five victors advancing to Qatar 2022.



For upcoming matches; the men's National Team (Sihlangu) will be playing against Djibouti away on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and at home on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 for the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. The Men's National Team will play against Zambia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 for their first leg at home and for their second leg on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 away for the CHAN Qualifiers. Sihlangu will also play against Guinea Bissau away and Senegal at home November for 2021 TOTAL AFCON Qualifiers.



Sihlangu players before the Total CHAN match against Angola at the Mavuso Sports Centre

"This year is going to be a busy year for the national team as from September to December they will be competing", the Head coach of Sihlangu; Kostadin Papic said. He was reacting on the busy schedule of the national team between September and December.

## IF YOU HAVE NO DREAMS, YOU HAVE NO FUTURE-EFA'S PRESIDENT MR. ADAM MTHETHWA



EFA'S President Mr. Adam Mthethwa.

The Eswatini Football Association's (EFA'S) President Mr. Adam Mthethwa has shared his point of view about the 180 minutes left in as far as the qualification of Sihlangu SeMnikati to the 2020 Total CHAN Finals to be held in Cameroon early next year. "If you have no dreams, you have no future. We are about to make history by qualifying for the finals of one of the major tournaments in Africa. We are working towards that target", Mthethwa said.

Moreover, he stated that to eliminate Malawi and Angola from the Total CHAN qualifiers comes with its own history and we are just one opposition away from qualifying for the 2020 Total CHAN Finals, which can be a great achievement. The president also urged every stakeholder to support the national team in making this dream a reality.

## THE 2019/2020 MTN PREMIER AND NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LEAGUES OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) and National First Division Season was launched on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Mahlalekhukhwini House in Ezulwini. It was officially launched by the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Hon. Harries Bulunga. The sponsorship package is E6 000 000.00.

During the launch, the Hon. Minister extend His Majesty's deepest gratitude to MTN Eswatini for the amazing role the company

continues to play in the development of football in the Kingdom of Eswatini. "Mr CEO, kindly allow me to convey my sincerest appreciation to you and your team for all the support that you have rendered to football. Indeed, football in Eswatini owes a lot of its growth to MTN", Bulunga said.



Minister of Sports, Hon. Harries Bulunga, PS Ministry of Sports, Arts and Youth Affairs; Prince Mlayeto, EFA'S President Mr. Adam Mthethwa, acting MTN Eswatini CEO; Mr. Sibusiso Nhleko and PLE Executive Member, Mr. Sicelo Mkhonta.

He further congratulated all 26 clubs who will be competing for the two respective crowns this season. He hoped that they have spent the duration of pre-season properly preparing themselves. "We look forward to watching entertaining football throughout the season. I take this moment to remind you of the need to ensure that you compete in the spirit of fair play", Bulunga said. Moreover he highlighted that His Majesty's Government will continue to offer support to the two leagues, throughout the football season.

The Eswatini Football Association and football family at large, through the President Mr. Adam Mthethwa acknowledged the generous sponsorship and investment that MTN is giving to the national leagues. "we salute His Majesty's Government for nurturing an enabling environment for the practice of football and their commitment to an improved performance of our teams internationally and also the MTN Eswatini for this sponsorship", the EFA President Mr. Adam Mthethwa said.



2019 EPTC CHARITY CUP FINALS UNDER  
CAMERA



Mbabane Highlanders posing for group photo before the finals of the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup match against Manzini Wanderers.



His Majesty The King Mswati III presenting the trophy to Mbabane Highlanders FC.



His Majesty The King Mswati III, with the Management Committee of the 2019 EPTC Charity Cup.



Manzini Wanderers posing for group photo before their 2019 EPTC Charity Cup match against Mbabane Highlanders.



Prime Minister Ambrose 'Mandvulo' Dlamini, and EFA'S President Mr. Adam Mthethwa going to the field for the hand shake before the kick-off of the finals.



Mbabane Highlanders FC Chairman Ally Kgomongwe celebrates the 3-1 victory over Manzini Wanderers FC.



The tournament's top goal scorer Joseph Lekota in control of the ball against Manzini Wanderers FC.



EFA'S CEO, Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu and President Mr. Adam Mthethwa in discussion.



Mbabane Highlanders FC fans in full voice during the 2019 Eswatini Telecom Charity Cup.