



# SIGWACA NEWSLETTER

*"Living the Football Spirit and Our Pride"*

ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

May 2021

## SIHLANGU FRIGTENES THE TARANGA LIONS IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD



## EFA INFORMS HER MEMBERS ABOUT THE UPCOMING EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLIES



The "Ace" in the Legends space



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## EFA TO GIVE HER MEMBERS THE 2021 GRANTS

Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has assured her members that they will get their first payment of Grants for 2021 within the next week. This was confirmed by the EFA President Mr. Adam Mthethwa during the EFA's Extraordinary General Assembly that was held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 at the Happy Valley Hotel in Ezulwini.

"Members will receive their payment of Grants for 2021 from the EFA as per the budget"; said Mthethwa. He also highlighted that they will also

also get the last portion of the Covid-19 Solidarity Funds. "Members will also get the last portion of the Covid-19 Solidarity fund"; Mthethwa said. Over and above these finances, EFA has already invested towards the resumption of football as equipment and material for such has already been done including the compulsory testing for the various

football clubs at the level of the Premier League and National First Division League, including those from the regional super leagues, that participated in play-offs for the National First Division League.

The EFA President also informed the Members that the covid-19 Relief Funding does not affect the receipt of the normal grants. "Delegates, whilst the Covid-19 Relief Funding does not affect the receipt of the normal grant, which are expected to be received in full in 2021, in line with the requirements of the FIFA Forward Regulations, Members are entreated to exercise cautiousness in expenditure, to ensure an extended livelihood of their organizations and associated basic responsibilities, as the

environment of the pandemic has not yet been resolved, especially, with all economies domestically and globally, including those that finance football, having taken a huge recession as a result of the persistent health threat", said Mthethwa.



Outgoing EFA President Mr. Adam Mthethwa

**As RESPONSIBLE players, we always play the game in accordance to the laws of the game;**

**BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN BY APPLYING THE 5 GOLDEN RULES OF HYGIENE**

1. Wash your hands with running water and soap or use alcohol-based sanitizer
2. Practise social distancing
3. Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
4. If you feel sick contact health care services
5. Avoid touching your face

Remember to keep fit. #individualtraining

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## *EFA INFORMS HER MEMBERS ABOUT THE UPCOMING EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLIES*



Outgoing EFA President Mr. Adam Mthethwa and EFA General Secretary Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu during the EFA Extraordinary General Assembly held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has informed her Members, as per the EFA statutes, about an Extraordinary General Assembly which is scheduled for Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021, commencing at 1100hrs (11:00 am) at the Happy Valley Hotel in Ezulwini. This event is implemented pursuant to the statement made at the Extraordinary General Assembly of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 that the imminent elections of the EFA Executive Committee at the EFA Ordinary General Assembly 2021, as directed by FIFA, will be executed in terms of the EFA Electoral Code.

The implementation of this event is subject to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

On another note, EFA hereby also notifies her Members as per the EFA statutes, about the 2021 Ordinary General Assembly scheduled to be hosted on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at a venue that is yet to be communicated in terms of the EFA statutes. This will be an Elective Ordinary General Assembly in view of that the current term of office of the EFA's Executive Committee is coming to an end, after a four-year period in office

The implementation of this too, will be event is subject to the evolution and/or resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic as regulated by the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

## LIVE STREAMING OF MTN PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHES OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



PLE Chairman-Mr. Mark Carmichael

"We need to embrace the live streaming of matches as football clubs and the nation"- PLE Chairman.

Every dark cloud has a silver lining. With football fans being banned from attending football matches in stadiums due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) and MTN Eswatini has officially introduced a live streaming platform where football fans can watch their favourite teams at a cost which will be revenue that will benefit the football clubs.

"Football fans should enjoy local football from the comfort of their homes", said Mr. Wandile Mtshali, the Chief Executive Officer of MTN Eswatini. He also highlighted that the long term plan for this platform is for the people to enjoy local football even beyond the borders of this country. The football family expressed its excitement in as far as this partnership is concerned and the overall relationship that it have with MTN Eswatini. "As football family, we are happy with the relationship that we have with MTN Eswatini, and over and above that; we would like to express our sincere

appreciation to MTN Eswatini for the cooperation that the organization had with us during this tough period where the globe is terrorised by the COVID-19 pandemic", said the Eswatini Football Association's (EFA's) President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa.

The PLE Chairman Mr. Mark Carmichael acknowledged His Majesty's Government for allowing the return of football and eulogized MTN Eswatini for her investment to football for the past 20 years.

"We would like to acknowledge His Majesty's Government for the return of football. We also thank MTN Eswatini for her investment in football development in the country as the organization has invested E50 Million to the game over 20 years". He also pleaded to the football clubs and the nation at large to support this initiative for the benefit of the stakeholders. "We need to embrace the live streaming of matches as football clubs and the nation", Carmichael said. The revenue generated from this initiatives will be shared by the PLE and MTN Eswatini with the former getting 78% whilst the latter getting 22%.

## THE LEGENDS' SPACE

In the legends' space Muzi Radebe is talking to one of the "Aces" who are currently Executive Members of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA). Mr. Nichodimus "Ace" Mashwama was one of the most gifted players to grace the Eswatini football as he ended up playing for the Senior Men's National Team (Sihlangu) and Mbabane Highlanders FC.

**Good Afternoon Sir.**  
Good afternoon Muzi

**When did you start playing football?**

I can't be precise as I am getting old each day, but what I can tell you is that I grew up in football as I started playing the game in the Lubombo Region. I played for 3 teams which are Brave Lions FC, Mhlume Highlanders FC and Mbabane Highlanders FC.

**When did you become a Mbabane Highlanders FC player?**

I played for Mbabane Highlanders FC since 1982 until I retired in 2003 due to work commitments.

**During your time, Mbabane Highlanders FC was dominating, what was the secret?**

Hard work and commitment. We were also strong on development as a team. The team was like an academy. When we recruited younger players, the most important thing was to learn from the senior players. Most of the players that we recruited did very well as they also played for the national team. These players are Manzi Mthupha, the late Tholeni Nkambule (may His Soul Rest in Peace), Abel Shongwe and Innocent "Ten Ten" Ginindza to name but a few.

**Were you a key player at Highlanders?**

Football is a team sport and every player is important as he/she has a certain role to play for the team. I was always in the starting line-up due to hard work and commitment. I lived a sportsman life-style. You know substance abuse have destroyed our players. Desperation is also killing our football as players are now changing a lot of teams within a short period of time which makes it difficult for the players to establish themselves. This also affects player development. Mind you, the first readiness of a player is the mental strength.



Front row, first from the left: Mr. Nichodimus "Ace" Mashwama with his international teammates for Sihlangu.

**How did you join Mbabane Highlanders FC?**

When I went to the Swaziland College of Technologies (SCOT), I told Maria Maria that I wanted to train with Mbabane Highlanders FC as it was going to be impossible for me to train with my parent team Mhlume Highlanders due to the long distance between Mbabane and Mhlume. The rest was history.

**Mbabane Highlanders FC was always in Africa. Which team did you play against as your debut match in an interclub competition?**

We were playing against Township Rollers FC in Botswana. That was my first time to witness the inside of a plane.

**Sir, you are one of the best players produced by the country and most of the national team players were from Mbabane Highlanders when you were still playing. Does having a majority of players from one team have any significance in the performance of the national team?**

Yah I played for the national team for over ten years and Mbabane Highlanders used to have over eight players in the national team. Absalom "Scara" Thindwa (Bulembu Young Aces FC), William "Cool Cat" Shongwe and Scara Gama (Manzini Wanderers FC) were some of the players from the other teams that completed the first eleven. Some people used to call the national team Swazilanders for that reason. Having a number of players from one team enhances the understanding of players in the field of play thus influencing the style of play in the country.



Mr Nichodimus "Ace" Mashwama 5<sup>th</sup> from the second row celebrating on of the numerous championships in Mbabane Highlanders FC colours.

Which is your most memorable match as a national team player?

It is when we knocked out Tanzania in the AFCON Qualifiers away from home. The match ended by a 1-1 draw and I scored the goal for the national team that forced the match to go for penalties where we finally won.

Which player gave you tough times in the field of play?

Most players were worried about me than the other way round. Gerald Shield was a hard defender to compete with. In fact his combination with Alex "Ayez'amanzi" Mamba was very strong. Also, Bhekisisa "Bizzah" Mkhonta was a very competitive player as he was a hard worker and a good distributor of the ball.

Why did most players found it tough to play against you?

I was a good calculator of the ball and also focused as a striker. My aerial power was superb and I inherited my heading tactics from Jani Simulambo who was a master tactician in our football during our playing days.

How is the level of players in terms of performance when you compare the current players and those when you were still playing?

The performance is lower as compared to our time. We had good players who had exceptional qualities. For an example, Henry "Puma" Kunene was a good kicker of the ball and even now I haven't seen a player who can kick the ball like him. Nhlanhla Maphanga can attest to that (laughs). Robson "Sparks" Dlakubi was once rated third amongst the best goalkeepers in Africa. Players like Mlamuli "Sputla" Zwane and Sipho "Tholeni" Nkambule were one of the best export players the country produced as they did very well in the Republic of South Africa. This is an indication that a lot of work needs to be done at club level in terms of nurturing players which is key for player development. Football clubs must also embrace club licensing fully.

Thank you very much for your time Sir.

You are welcomed Muzi.

Currently Mr. Nichodimus "Ace" Mashwama is a business man in the construction industry. He is also an Executive Committee Member of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and Chairman of the Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA).

PICTORIAL OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2021



EFA outgoing President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa making his point to the Delegates.



EFA Vice President and PLE Chairman, Mr. Mark Carmichael in deep thoughts during the meeting.



Point taken: EFA CEO Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu taking notes.



Women's Football Association's treasure, Xolile Dlamini



Mr. Adam Mthethwa with Mr. Rudolf Saulos from the Shiselweni Regional Football Association.

## SIHLANGU FRIGTENES THE TARANGA LIONS IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD



The Senior Men's National Team (Sihlangu) in Senegal before the 2021 Total Qualifier Match in Dakar.

They paraded some of the best players in the world football but that didn't intimidate Sihlangu as the Eswatini Senior Men's National Team almost won their away match against the Aliou Cisse lead Senegalese National Team. With Sadio Mane starting the match on the bench and parading other world class players who play their club football in top European leagues, Sihlangu frightened the Taranga Lions in their own backyard at the Stade Late Dior in Dakar. With Senegal having already qualified for the Total AFCON Finals, pride was at stake for both nations.

Sihlangu was in search of the first win in these qualifiers at the expense of the Senegalese National Team. It was a well-articulated

volley from the boot of Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze that beat Seny Timothy Dieng hands down much to the joy of the Swatis. This was the lone goal of the first half. In the second half, the Taranga Lions continued to apply more pressure to Eswatini as they hunted for the equalizer up until the 96<sup>th</sup> minute when a goalkeeping blunder by Sandanezwe Mathabele resulted to Cheikhou Kouyate to tap in the equalizer much to the relieve of the Senegalese who were almost embarrassed by Sihlangu on home soil. The match referee from Guinea blew the final whistle with both teams settling for a 1-1 draw.

**ACTION OF THE 2021 TOTAL AFCON QUALIFIER MATCH BETWEEN ESWATINI AND GUINEA BISSAU**



This side: Sihlangu captain Lindo Mkhonta choosing his side.



Felix Badenhorst closing down on Guinea Bissau defender



Control: Sabelo Ndzinisa controlling the ball.



Justice Figureido out-pacing a Guinea Bissau player.



Ariel battle: Sandile Ndzinisa (9) in ariel tussle with a Guinea Bissau defender.

## EFA PARTNERS WITH ATHLETICS ESWATINI

Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and Athletics Eswatini (EA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will enhance the development of sports in the country. This MOU is aimed at promoting, strengthening the existing friendly relations and cooperation that exist between the EFA and AE.

As part of the MOU, both parties shall encourage and promote exchange programmes, skills, techniques, information and knowledge that will assist in the development of sports in the country. The EFA President Mr Adam Mthethwa highlighted the significance of sports development thus the implementation of this MOU. "Sports development is vital for any country there is a lot of benefit economically and otherwise", Mthethwa said.



Outgoing Eswatini Football Association President Mr. Adam Mthethwa and Athletics Eswatini President Mr. Zakhele Dlamini signing the MOU at Sigwaca House in Mbabane.

## *EFA CAPACITATES FOOTBALL CLUBS FOR ACTION UNDER THE NEW NORMAL*



The Technical Director of the EFA Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes in a lot of industries in the globe including football. The return of football for the premier league football clubs required a lot of adaptation for the teams and the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has come into the party by capacitating them through online workshops.

In the month of April, EFA has implemented a coaches' workshop targeted to all coaches for the MTN Premier League and National First Division clubs. The content for this workshop focused on COVID-19 protocols (facilitated by Mr. Welcome Motsa); Physical conditioning of players (facilitated by Mr. Welcome Motsa and Bongani Mthupha); and how to make use of the five substitutes, how to infuse young players, rotational system of players (facilitated by Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta and Mr. Friday Myeni).

The objective of this workshop was to capacitate the coaches on the new normal conditions in relation to player management due to the congestion of fixtures.