



ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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SIHLANGU SEMNIKATI CONCLUDE AFCON 2027 PRELIMINARY CAMPAIGN

Eswatini's Senior Men's National Team, Sihlangu SeMnikati, have concluded their journey in the preliminary round of the 2027 TOTALENERGIES AFCON Qualifiers following a 4-1 aggregate defeat to Eritrea.



The two-legged encounter began on the 25th of March in Meknes, Morocco, where

Sihlangu delivered a disciplined and resilient first-half performance. Goalkeeper Mlamuli Makhanya was a standout figure, producing a crucial penalty save to keep the match level at halftime. Facing an opponent with limited recent international activity, the technical team was challenged with minimal reference material, making the early stages of the match a tactical assessment as much as a contest. Sihlangu SeMnikati maintained their structure and composure deep into the second half; however, Eritrea capitalized late in the game, scoring in the 82nd minute before adding a second goal in stoppage time to secure a 2-0 advantage heading into the return leg.



The second leg, played on the 31st of March at the Somhlolo National Stadium, saw a strong show of support from Emaswati, who came out in numbers to rally behind the national team. With a challenging task ahead, Sihlangu SeMnikati approached the match with intent and urgency, dominating possession and creating several scoring opportunities, particularly in the first half.



Despite their attacking efforts and control of the game, the breakthrough proved elusive, and the teams went into halftime goalless. In the second half, Eritrea extended their aggregate lead with goals in the 68th minute and shortly thereafter, further complicating Sihlangu's path back into contention. Nevertheless, the team continued to push forward and was rewarded in stoppage time when Justice Figareido converted a well-taken free kick to register Eswatini's lone goal of the tie.

While the outcome is not what the team had hoped for, the campaign offered valuable lessons and moments of promise. The commitment

displayed by the players, coupled with the unwavering support from the fans, reflects a foundation on which the team can continue to build. Focus now shifts to reflection, rebuilding, and growth as Sihlangu SeMnikati looks ahead with determination to come back stronger in future competitions.



EFA WELCOMES STRATEGIC FIFA AMATEUR AND GRASSROOTS ANALYSIS

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has successfully concluded a landmark two-day FIFA Amateur and Grassroots Football Analysis presentation session by FIFA, held at the Sibane Sami Hotel from March 10–11, 2026. This report was presented by two FIFA experts, Mr. Serame Letsoaka and Mr. Ali Mwebi. The intensive session gathered key football stakeholders to receive a comprehensive analysis of Eswatini's amateur landscape, providing a data-driven roadmap for the future of the sport in the Kingdom.



Opening the workshop, EFA President Mr. Peter Simelane expressed his gratitude for FIFA's continued investment in global football development. He emphasized that the analysis is vital for modernizing local football operations. The President highlighted several key goals of the programme the first one being to Narrow the divide between elite and emerging clubs. Secondly Creating viable football businesses both on and off the pitch. Lastly for talent identification which is by building a stronger foundation for scouting and nurturing young players.





The second day of the workshop shifted toward practical application. Participants engaged in discussions to produce actionable initiatives that will be integrated into the EFA's existing long-term strategies. EFA General Secretary Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu praised the FIFA experts for their insightful contribu-

tions. "We will be reviewing this analysis to see what can be adapted and integrated," Mngomezulu noted. He committed the EFA to utilizing both the global and country-specific reports to elevate Eswatini's performance ranking on the international stage.



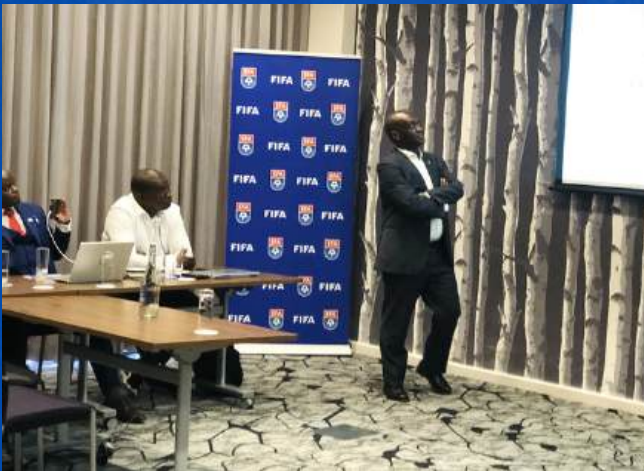
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FIFA EMPOWERS EFA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT



Following the EFA's Executive Elections that were executed on the 17th August 2025. The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) sent experts to the country to empower the EFA's Executive Committee and the management of the Secretariat on a two day workshop which was hosted from 25 to 26 march at Hilton Garden Inn.

The FIFA Instructors that facilitated in the workshop were Mr. David Fani, Ms. Christine Gama, Doreen Nabwire Omondi and Tsholofelo Setlhoko. Other topics were facilitated online by Ahmed Harroz, and Meryem Autouk. Some of the topics which were discussed included, the structure of world football; roles and responsibilities of FIFA, Confederations, MA, President, and the General Secretary; defining and discussing the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee; and the FIFA Forward Development Programme Session.



During the opening ceremony, the EFA President Mr. Peter Simelane acknowledged FIFA for the realization of this workshop and urged all participants to maximize this opportunity. “We would like to express our sincere gratitude to FIFA for this workshop as it will enhance the participants in executing their respective duties. I urge all the participants to maximize this opportunity.” Simelane said. FIFA expert, Mr. David Fani acknowledged the EFA for hosting them, and urged the participants to fully engage themselves in this workshop. “I would like to acknowledge the EFA for the hospitality, and I urge the participants to fully engage themselves in this empowerment Sessions”, Fani said.



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FIFA WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN ESWATINI



The FIFA Women's Football Campaign reached a successful climax on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Somhlolo National Stadium. The event saw 32 coaches put their training into action following an intensive coaching course held from March 10–13 at the EFA National Technical Centre in Lobamba. Approximately 400 girls participated in the practical sessions, marking a significant milestone for grassroots women's football development in the country.





The campaign focused on three core pillars: raising awareness, increasing female participation, and building a stronger network of qualified female coaches. During the final showcase at the national stadium, coaches applied contemporary training methods with young players, successfully bridging the gap between classroom theory and real-world implementation.



Ms. Phumzile Dlamini, EFA Executive Committee member and Chairperson of the Women's Football Committee, delivered the closing remarks. She expressed deep gratitude to FIFA for its technical support and ongoing development



programs. “We extend our sincerest gratitude to FIFA for their cooperation,” Dlamini stated. She emphasized the EFA’s commitment to ensuring that girls in Eswatini have the same dreams and opportunities as their peers globally. Ms. Dlamini also thanked the EFA President Mr. Peter Simelane, the Executive Committee, CEO Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu, Technical Director Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta, and the dedicated staff and instructors. Closing the event, she stressed that this campaign is not a conclusion, but rather “a kick-off for the next chapter” in elevating Eswatini’s women’s football to the global stage.

EFA AND FIFA LAUNCHES THE FIFA LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



On March 27th, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) officially launched the FIFA League Development Programme, marking a significant milestone for women's football in the country. This initiative shifts the focus toward structured grassroots development, ensuring young girls are introduced to the sport early and provided with a clear pathway for progression.

The programme features two key divisions designed to create a competitive and progressive environment the Under-15 Category which will comprise of 10 primary schools and Under-19 Category which will feature 12 high schools.



To further boost the initiative, the EFA has secured a partnership with PC Systems. The sponsorship agreement, worth E51,000 per annum for the next two years, specifically supports the Under-19 competition. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to investing in the future of Eswatini's female athletes. Speaking at the

launch, EFA President Mr. Peter Simelane described the initiative as a direct response to FIFA's mandate to strengthen women's football nationwide.

He noted that Eswatini currently only has one established league; the Senior Women's League and emphasized that this new programme is critical to bridging the gap between youth and elite play. "The introduction of structured school competitions will allow scouts to identify and nurture emerging talent, creating a vital feeder system for the senior league," Simelane stated. He also expressed deep gratitude to PC Systems, noting, "Player development at the grassroots level is the foundation for the future of women's football in our country" Simelane said.



The programme is expected to expand the national talent pool, feeding talent directly into the junior national teams, and ultimately graduating to the Senior Women's National Team (Sitsebe SaMhleka). Representing FIFA, Ms. Doreen Nabwire Omondi commended the EFA's efforts and urged other stakeholders to join the movement. "FIFA acknowledges the EFA's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the girl child to express herself through football," Omondi said. She reaffirmed FIFA's ongoing support and shared their optimism that the programme will deliver long-term success.

CAF AFRICAN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME KICKS OFF FOR 2026



The CAF African Schools Football Programme for Under-15 boys and girls is officially underway following the reopening of schools for the new academic year. This initiative continues to play a vital role in grassroots football development, providing a structured platform for identifying and nurturing young talent across the country.

The competition serves as a key pathway for player selection into the Junior National Teams, which go on to represent Eswatini at the CAF African Schools Championships. In the previous edition, Eswatini delivered an impressive performance, with the boys' team securing a bronze medal, marking a significant milestone for the nation's youth football development.



Building on that success, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) remains committed to further strengthening the programme, with a clear focus on improving performance, developing talent, and achieving even greater results in upcoming competitions.

STRENGTHENING FOOTBALL LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXECUTIVE INDUCTIONS

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen football administration and leadership across all structures, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) successfully conducted a series of induction sessions for newly elected executive committee members from its key associations.



The induction programmes were held separately for the Lubombo Regional Football Association, the Eswatini Referees Association, and the Eswatini Coaches Association, following the conclusion of their respective Elective General Assemblies. These sessions were designed to formally usher the new leadership into office while equipping them with the knowledge and tools required to effectively execute their mandates. A key focus of the inductions was on governance, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of executive members, as well as setting expectations for accountability, professionalism, and service delivery within their associations.



In addition, the sessions emphasized the importance of building strong and reputable brands within football structures. Members were guided on how to manage and protect the image of their associations, ensuring alignment with the broader vision and values of Eswatini football. Recognizing the evolving landscape of sports management, the inductions also introduced strategies for sustainability and growth, particularly in the area of revenue generation. Discuss-

ions included approaches to attracting sponsorship, building strategic partnerships, and creating opportunities that can enhance the financial stability of the associations.



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BUILD IT FULFILLS BURSARY PROMISE TO UNDER-13 STAR SIMPHIWE TSABEDZE



Build It, in partnership with the Eswatini Football Association (EFA), continues to drive grassroots football development as young talent Simphiwe Tsabedze officially received his E10,000 bursary on 18 March at Sigwacwa House.

The award follows the Build It Under-13 National Championship held on 15 November 2025, where the Build It Manzini store pick team emerged victorious. Simphiwe stood out as the star of the tournament, earning the Player of the Tournament accolade for his exceptional skill, leadership, and composure. The bursary serves as a vital investment in both his academic and footballing future, reinforcing Build It's commitment to youth development beyond the pitch. During the handover ceremony, Build It representative Mr. Gladwin Hillary congratulated Simphiwe on his achievement and applauded all the young athletes

who participated. He also extended his gratitude to the parents, acknowledging their essential role as stakeholders in youth development. Mr. Hillary emphasized that the partnership between Build It and the EFA remains a steadfast pillar for nurturing the country's future stars.



EFA General Secretary Mr. Mngomezulu expressed his gratitude for Build It's 20-year legacy of support. He noted that the initiative has become a critical pathway for the senior national team, with many former participants rising through the ranks to represent Eswatini at the highest level. He further praised

Build It for its consistent contribution to education through these bursaries, which have positively impacted the lives of many young players. Accepting the award, Simphiwe Tsabedze shared his appreciation for the recognition. He revealed his dream of one day playing for the senior national team a goal he has already begun pursuing following his recent inclusion in the junior national squad (under 13). Simphiwe also paid tribute to his coach, whose encouragement was instrumental in boosting his confidence and guiding the team to championship glory.

NKAMBULE AND DLAMINI SHINE AS FEBRUARY'S TOP PERFORMERS



Outstanding individual performances were recognized across Eswatini's top football leagues, with Senanelo Nkambule of Moneni Pirates F.C. and Sidumo Dlamini of Piggs Peak Professionals emerging as the Players of the Month for February in their respective divisions.

In the MTN Premier League, Senanelo Nkambule delivered an impressive run of form, scoring two goals and providing two assists during the month. His influence was instrumental in Moneni Pirates' strong performances, as the team pushed into the top four. Nkambule's creativity, vision, and attacking contribution proved vital in driving his side forward during a competitive period in the league.

Meanwhile, in the Mulasport National First Division, Piggs Peak Professionals F.C. forward Sidumo Dlamini



was recognized for his impactful displays. Dlamini played a key role in his team's positive run in February, where they recorded two wins and one draw. His contributions helped propel Piggs Peak Professionals F.C. into pole position, underlining his importance to the team's attacking success.

LETTICIA VIANNA RECEIVES MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



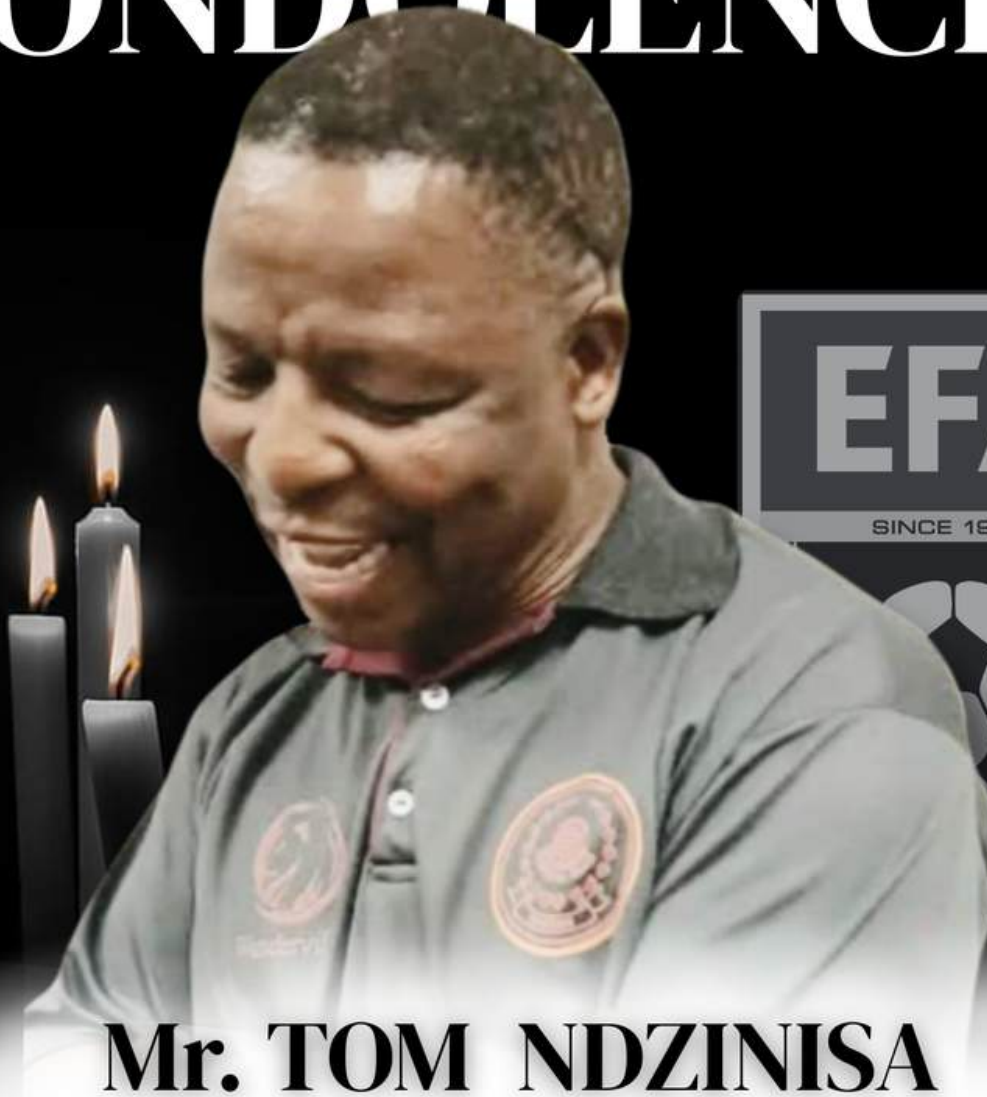
Leticia Vianna was honoured with the prestigious Meritorious Service Award at the Mulasport National Sport Awards, held at The Luke Commission Auditorium in Sidvokodvo on the 28th of March. The award recognised her outstanding contributions and excellence in officiating, which have elevated her profile both locally and on the global stage.

Vianna's achievements continue to break new ground, with her most recent milestone being her appointment as a Video Match Assistant Referee (VAR) at the TOTALENERGIES AFCON 2025 Final in Morocco, where Senegal faced hosts Morocco. Her involvement in such a high-profile international fixture highlights her growing influence and reputation in world football officiating,

serving as an inspiration to many aspiring referees in Eswatini. EFA proudly congratulates her and all other winners who clinched such recognition from their respective fields and categories.



CONDOLENCES



Mr. TOM NDZINISA

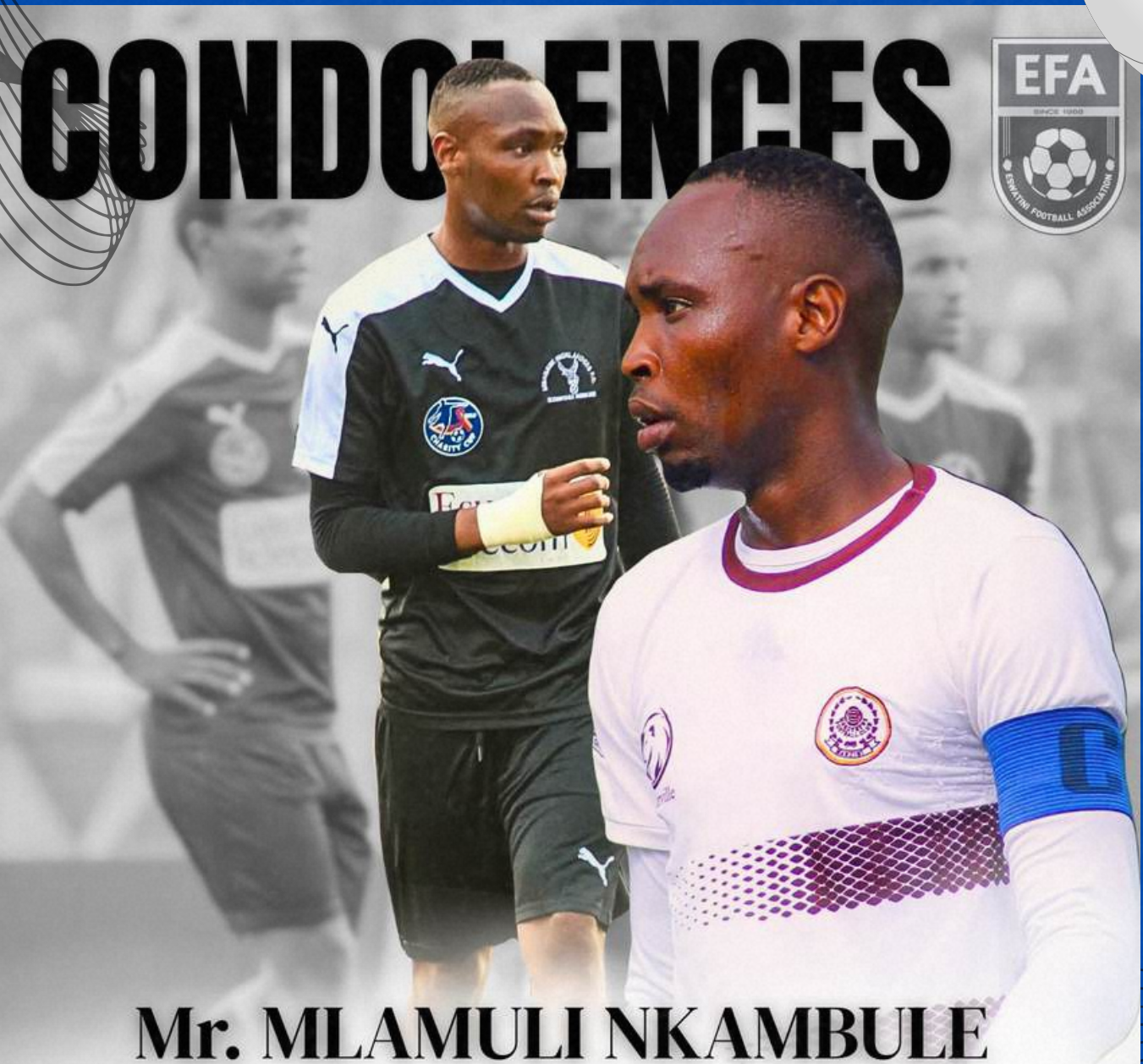
The Eswatini Football Association and the entire football community in Eswatini are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Mr. Tom Ndzinisa. He served the game of football with dedication in various capacities within the local football structures, including contributing to the advancement of women's football and supporting club football at management level.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire football fraternity during this difficult time.

Psalms 34:18, "The Lord near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit"

May his soul rest in peace

CONDOLANCES



Mr. MLAMULI NKAMBULE

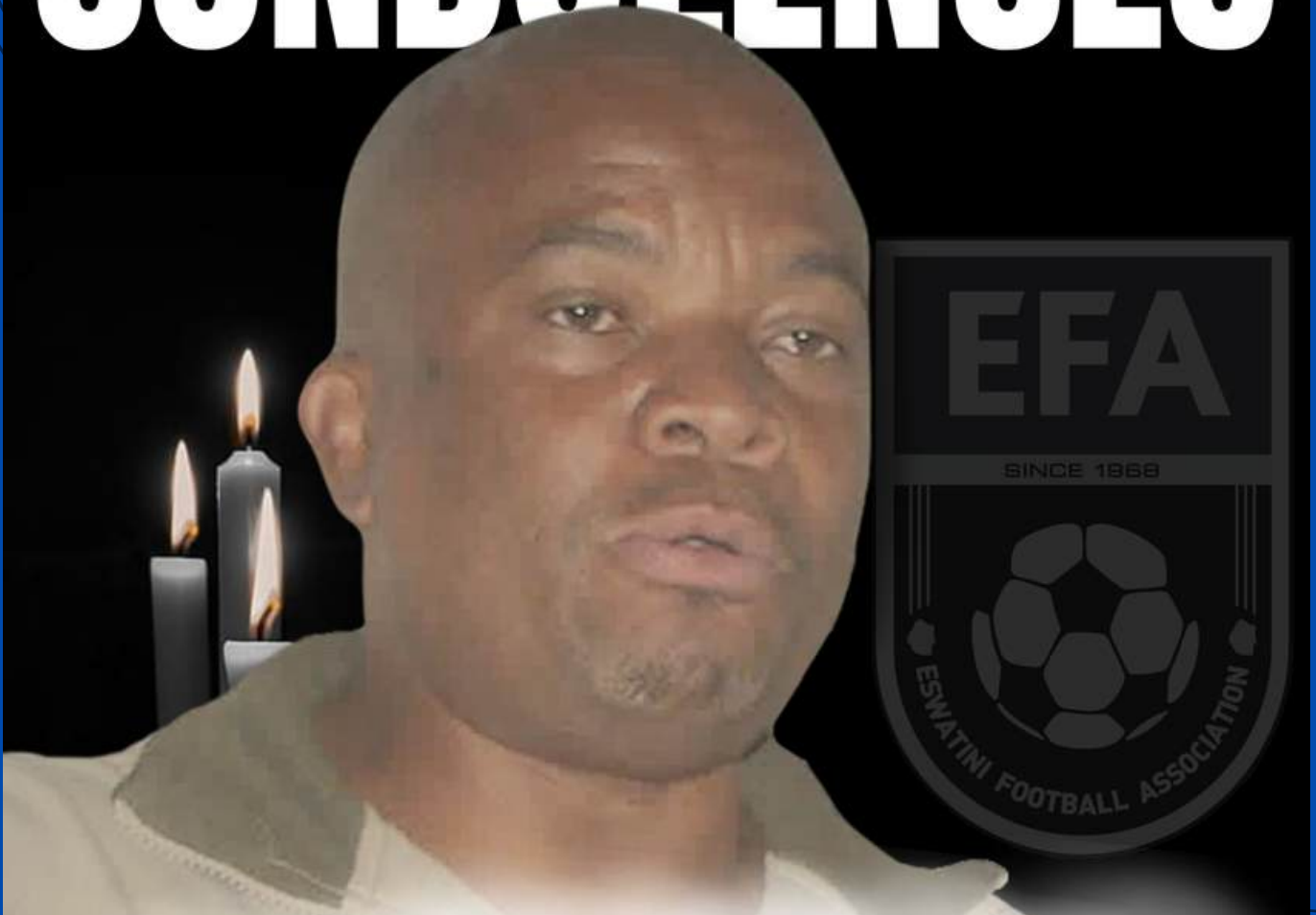
The Eswatini Football Association and the entire football community in Eswatini are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Mr. Mlamuli Nkambule. A devoted football player, who played the beautiful game with passion ; made him to display his football artistry even at the international Arena. His passing-on is a titanic loss to football as he was a role model to a lot of youngsters and football fans in the country as his reference in playing the sport acted as a motivation to various football stakeholders.

At this moment, the EFA extends its heartfelt empathies to his family, relatives, friends and the broader football community affected by his passing.

Psalms 147:3, "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds"

May his soul rest in peace

CONDOLENCES



Mr. PHUMUZA NTJANGASE

The Eswatini Football Association and the entire football household in Eswatini have learnt with great astonishment about the untimely demise of Mr. Phumuza Ntjangase, a true legend of the game. Reowned for his exceptional skill, pace, and passion on the field, He was a remarkable talent whose contribution helped shape the football landscape of our nation. Even beyond his playing days, he remained devoted to the game, continuing to serve with distinction in football administration.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire football fraternity during this difficult time.

Psalms 147:3, "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds."

May his soul rest in peace



**THANK YOU FOR STAYING UPDATED WITH THE LATEST
FROM THE ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND
GROWTH OF FOOTBALL IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**

FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

UNTIL NEXT TIME

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