



ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE ?

EFA REFEREEING DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

EFA JOINS GOVERNMENT IN
ENDING CHILD LABOUR

EFA | FIFA TALENT DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME

EFA SAFETY, SECURITY & SAFEGUARDING
WORKSHOP : FOR PLE, WOMEN FOOTBALL
LEAGUE, NFD, REGIONAL SUPERLEAGUES
AND ZONAL LEAGUES CLUBS.

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LIVING THE FOOTBALL SPIRIT AND OUR PRIDE

EFA PRESIDENT HAILS MULASPORT INVESTMENT AT HISTORIC NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Premier League of Eswatini (PLE), hosted the inaugural MulaSport National First Division League Prize Presentation Ceremony at Sibane Sami Hotel in Ezulwini on Thursday, 25 June 2026. The event marked the culmination of a successful first season under the MulaSport sponsorship and brought together football stakeholders, government representatives, sponsors, club officials, players, and the media to celebrate excellence within the country's second-tier football competition.



Addressing the gathering, EFA President Peter Simelane described the occasion as a significant milestone for Eswatini football and expressed gratitude to MulaSport for its investment in the National First Division League. Reflecting on the launch of the partnership in October 2025, Simelane recalled the Association's appreciation when MulaSport first committed its support to the league. Simelane also acknowledged the support of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini through the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs.



The President also commended the Premier League of Eswatini leadership for introducing and successfully managing the newly branded competition. He added that the sponsorship has created additional motivation for clubs competing in regional super leagues and lower divisions to improve their standards and strive for promotion. The ceremony also celebrated the achievements of

the season's top performers. Red Rhinos FC were crowned champions and secured automatic promotion to the MTN Premier League. They will be joined by Pigg's Peak Professionals FC and Madlenya FC, who also earned promotion through the play-offs.

EFA JOINS GOVERNMENT IN ENDING CHILD LABOUR

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) joined the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in commemorating the World Day Against Child Labour, observed annually on 12 June.



This year's commemoration was held under football theme campaign **#RedCardToChildLabour**, a global initiative led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) aimed at advocating for the protection of children and the elimination of child labour. The event brought together government officials, football administrators, and various stakeholders committed to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. Speaking

during the event, the Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ms. Mpumie Dlamini, emphasized the importance of protecting children from exploitation and ensuring that they are able to enjoy their childhood, pursue education, and grow up in safe and supportive environments.



Acting Labour Commissioner Mr. Mduduzi Vilakati echoed these sentiments, noting that while cases of child labour remain a concern, the Ministry continues to work tirelessly with partners and stakeholders to curb the practice and strengthen child protection mechanisms across the country. Representing the Eswatini Football

Association, EFA Executive Committee Member Dr. Comfort Shongwe applauded the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for spearheading the initiative and reaffirmed football's role as a powerful vehicle for social change.



Dr. Shongwe highlighted football's unique ability to unite communities, educate young people, and amplify important social messages. He further expressed the EFA's pride in partnering with the Ministry in a campaign that promotes the welfare, dignity, and rights of children. The EFA remains committed to supporting initiatives that protect children and promote their holistic development. Through football, the Association will continue to advocate for environments where children can learn, play, and thrive free from exploitation and abuse.



The commemoration served as a reminder that ending child labour requires a collective effort from government, communities, organisations, and individuals. Together, stakeholders can help ensure that every child enjoys their rights and has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

WOMEN'S INTERMEDIATE COACHING COURSE CONCLUDES WITH STRONG FOCUS ON ADVANCING GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA), in partnership with FIFA, successfully concluded the Women's Intermediate Coaching Course at the EFA Lobamba Technical Centre on the 28th of June, marking another important step in the development of women's football in Eswatini.

The week-long course, which ran from 21 to 28 June 2026, brought together 22 coaches from the EFA/FIFA Under-19 Girls Schools Development League and the CAF African Schools Football Championship Under-15 Programme. The initiative was aimed at strengthening coaching capacity within school football structures and forms part of FIFA's launched Women's Football Development Campaign, which seeks to increase the number of women players and qualified women coaches while improving the overall quality of the women's game.



Throughout the programme, participants were exposed to advanced coaching methodologies, player development principles, the Laws of the Game, and safeguarding practices. Special emphasis was placed on creating safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for girls participating in football. The course was facilitated by EFA Technical Director Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta and EFA Coaching Instructor Musa Mamba, who guided participants through a combination of classroom sessions and practical field-based learning.

The final phase of the course saw participants undergo comprehensive assessments, including oral examinations and practical coaching evaluations on Saturday, followed by a written theory examination on Sunday morning.



Officially closing the course, EFA Executive Committee Member Mr. Aaron Mavimbela commended both the instructors and participants for their commitment, resilience, and cooperation throughout the demanding programme.



He encouraged the coaches to return to their respective schools and communities ready to implement the knowledge and skills they had acquired, emphasizing that the true success of the course would be reflected in the development of the next generation of female footballers.



Speaking during the closing ceremony, EFA Women's Football Development Officer Ms. Sbhongile Skaggel praised the participants for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the week. Skaggel also expressed her gratitude to FIFA for its continued investment in women's football development, noting that such opportunities would not be possible without its unwavering support. She further thanked the Eswatini Football Association for ensuring the successful delivery of the programme.



On behalf of the participants, Ms. Nokhwezi Dlamini described the course as a transformative and enriching experience that had equipped them with valuable knowledge and practical skills. She also acknowledged the challenges and stigma that still exist within women's football but expressed confidence that the growing number of qualified female coaches would inspire more young girls to take up the sport and help drive the continued growth of women's football in Eswatini.



EFA | FIFA TALENT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PRODUCES IMPRESSIVE YOUNG TALENT

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA), through the FIFA-supported Talent Development Scheme (TDS), successfully concluded its youth football programme with an exciting National One-Day Championship that showcased the country's emerging football talent. This football development event was implemented on Saturday, 20th June 2026 at the EFA Technical Centre in Lobamba.

The tournament provided a competitive platform for boys and girls in the U15 and U17 age categories to demonstrate their skills, talent, and passion for the game. Throughout the championship, spectators were treated to entertaining football and promising performances from young players representing various development programmes and regional teams.



In the Women's category, the EFA | FIFA Women Pick Team displayed outstanding form throughout the competition. They won all their group stage matches before defeating the Mbabane Women Pick Team in the final to be crowned champions. The Boys U15 category was dominated by the CAF African Schools Pick Team, who produced a series of impressive performances to emerge as tournament champions.

In the Boys U17 category, Nhlangano TDS showcased resilience and quality as they advanced to the final and defeated the Fairview Pick Team to lift the championship trophy.



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EFA REFEREEING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PRODUCES 19 NEW MATCH OFFICIALS

A total of 19 referees from the Lubombo Central Zone have successfully graduated after completing a five-day Refereeing Basic Course held in Siphofaneni on the 10th of June.



The course was facilitated by respected FIFA-accredited match commissioner Bhala Motsa, who equipped the aspiring referees with fundamental knowledge and practical skills in match officiating. The participants comprised both male and female candidates, with the youngest graduate being a learner from Charles Wesley Primary School. All participants were awarded certificates upon completion. Speaking during the closing ceremony held at Siphofaneni High School on Saturday, Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Referees Committee Chairman Sicelo Nene congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the course. He urged them to apply what they had learned with integrity and professionalism while cautioning them against malpractice.

Also addressing the gathering was Lubombo Regional Football Association Vice Chairman Thulani Malaza, who thanked the EFA and Nene for their commitment to improving refereeing standards in the regions. One of the standout stories from the course was that of 13-year-old Senele Dlamini, a learner at Charles Wesley Primary School in Big Bend, who emerged as one of the youngest graduates. Speaking shortly after receiving his certificate at the closing ceremony, Dlamini said his passion for refereeing inspired him to take up the profession instead of playing football.

EFA ROLLS OUT NATIONWIDE SAFETY, SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has taken another significant step towards strengthening football administration and matchday operations through the rollout of its inaugural nationwide Safety, Security and Safeguarding Workshop Programme.

The initiative, which commenced with a workshop for Premier League, First Division League and Women Football League teams Safety, Security and Safeguarding officers has since been extended to all Regional Football Associations, ensuring that football safety personnel across the country receive the knowledge and practical skills required to deliver safe and secure football environment.



The inaugural workshop for the national leagues featured one of Africa's industry expert Mr. Humphrey Thlobelo, who is the Safety and Security Officer for Mamelodi Sundowns F.C., and he was one of the CAF Safety and Security officers during the TOTALENERGIES AFCON FINALS 2026 in Morocco. Other facilitators were EFA Head of Safety and Security Miss Tengtengile Ndlandla and EFA

Safeguarding Officer Mr. Lucky Dube.



Following the successful completion of the national workshop, the programme moved into the regions, reaching Shiselweni, Manzini, Lubombo and Hhohho Regional Football Associations. Each workshop brought together Safety and Security Officers from Super League clubs, representatives from zonal leagues, together with other key football stakeholders including Premier League match officials, members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service, Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force and football administrators where applicable. Throughout the workshops, participants received comprehensive training covering football safety, security and safeguarding, crowd management, stadium and venue safety, accreditation systems, access control, matchday operations and the practical application of CAF and FIFA safety standards. Practical exercises further enabled participants to apply classroom knowledge to real matchday scenarios.

PREMIER LEAGUE, NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION & WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE WORKSHOP

15-16 JUNE 2026



SHISELWENI REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

18-19 JUNE 2026 | KING SOBUZA II MEMORIAL STADIUM



MANZINI REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

22-23 JUNE 2026 | MANZINI CARITAS



LUBOMBO REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

25-26 JUNE 2026 | KA-LANGA TECHNICAL CENTRE



HHOHHO REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP (North)

29-30 JUNE 2026 | MKHUZWENI TECHNICAL CENTRE



The nationwide programme has received overwhelming support from regional football leadership and participants, many of whom described the workshops as long overdue and committed themselves on implementing the knowledge gained in their respective clubs and leagues.

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE AWARDS 2025/26 SEASON

The official closing of yet another exciting MTN Premier League Season 2025/26, The league's title sponsor MTN Eswatini celebrated all the season's winners and Champions Nsingizini Hotspurs F.C. at a black tie-themed award ceremony, which was hosted at Royal Villas, Ezulwini on the 11th of June 2026. Amongst dignitaries who attended was the Honourable Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Bongani Nzima.



The match officials that were awarded were Referee Thulani Sibandze for Referee of the Year and Assistant Referee Bhekumusa

Mdzebele for Assistant Referee of the Year.



Philani Mkhonto (Manzini Sea Birds F.C.) won the Player of the Year accolade, Hleliso Gamedze of Royal Leopard F.C. picked the Top Goalscorer award, together with the Player's Player of the Season award. Njongo Mazibuko of Mbabane Swallows F.C. was crowned the young player of the season. The Chairman's Award was received by Muzi Siyaya from Ubombo Sugar F.C.

Nsingizini Hotspurs F.C. having been crowned the Champions of the MTN PLE 2025/26 season, then swept all the remaining individual awards, with Sibusiso Dlamini given the honour of being crowned the Best Goalkeeper, Mandla Qhogi, Coach of the Year and Mnotfo Dlamini PRO of the year.

NSINGIZINI HOTSPURS F.C. (LADIES TEAM) CROWNED EFA WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



What a historic moment for women's football in the Kingdom! EFA extends her warmest congratulations to Nsingizini Hotspurs Ladies for being crowned the EFA Women's Football League Champions for the 2025/26 season. In a thrilling title decider, they defeated the four-

time defending champions Young Buffaloes F.C. Ladies 1-0 at the Lobamba Technical Centre, ending Buffaloes' dominance and writing a new chapter in Eswatini women's football history.

The EFA Congratulates and applauds all stakeholders who played a magnificent role for yet another perfect and smooth execution of the EFA Women Football League 2025/26 season. The Football



Association also hopes that more determination, hardwork and teamwork will be shown even next season. More resources are still needed in order to elevate women's football to greater heights; thus, the need for more sponsors in as far as women football development is concerned.

CORPORATION ALL STARS CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE BASADI GROUP HRFA MBABANE PROMOTION KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT



The Basadi Group HRFA Mbabane Promotion Knockout Tournament reached a successful conclusion on the 6th of June with Corporation All Stars emerging as worthy champions and walked away with E 25 000 Prize Money, after a convincing 3-0 victory over Royal Dynamos in the final. Mpumelelo 'Tsera' Zwane was named Player of the Tournament and received a special water tank award, while Woodlands FC secured third place after defeating Mphalati Dribbling Stars 4-1.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

The Eswatini Football Association congratulates Mr. Jerry Soko on his new appointment as MTN Eswatini Chief Executive Officer.



CONGRATULATIONS LETTICIA VIANNA

THE ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PROUDLY CONGRATULATES LETTICIA VIANNA ON HER APPOINTMENT AS A VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE (VAR) FOR THE **FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP POLAND 2026** FROM 5-27 AUGUST 2026.



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Football Unites – Violence Divides Us



NO ROOM FOR VIOLENCE

in Eswatini Football



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**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

LIVING THE FOOTBALL SPIRIT AND OUR PRIDE

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**+268 (2404 6852/62 | P.O BOX 641, Mbabane Eswatini,
Sigwaca House H100**