



ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE ?

BUILD IT EFA UNDER 13 2026
TOURNAMENT

FIFA MA ELITE REFEREES COURSE

EFA MARKETING AND
COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

EFA HOSTS REFEREES SYMPOSIUM AHEAD
OF NEW SEASON

EFA STEPS UP TO PUT SHOES ON
CHILDREN'S FEET THROUGH LEGENDS CUP
PARTNERSHIP

OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



LIVING THE FOOTBALL SPIRIT AND OUR PRIDE

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE 2026 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY



“ I would like to thank all our delegates for their attendance, participation and valuable contributions during the successful conclusion of the EFA 2026 Ordinary General Assembly. The Assembly went well, and I am encouraged by the discussions and concerns raised by our delegates, particularly around the development of football in Eswatini. Our intention is to see our football progress and develop to the same level as football in other nations, and this requires us to have meaningful discussions about the challenges that continue to affect our game.

One of the key concerns raised was the implementation of football development programmes and the financial resources available to support these programmes. We acknowledge that development is not always being executed at the level we would like, but we are, in some instances, constrained by the resources available to us and the funding we receive through FIFA and CAF.

This is why we continue to urge the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and private sectors to provide greater financial support to the EFA. If we are serious about developing football, we must invest in our young players from an early age. Training children at a young age and equipping them with the right techniques and foundations will give us a stronger pool of players and help build the future of Eswatini football.

The issue of the Senior Men's National Team head coach was also raised during the Assembly, particularly regarding the salary attached to the position. I understand the concerns of the delegates. However, our ability to appoint a highly experienced coach is also influenced by the financial resources available to the Association.



When appointing a coach, we first have to look at the resources we have and then identify a coach whose remuneration is within our financial capacity. At the same time, we understand that getting a highly experienced coach, who can potentially deliver immediate results, requires a significant financial investment.

For this reason, I once again call upon the Government to support the EFA, particularly by taking responsibility for the salary of the Senior Men's National Team head coach. With stronger financial backing, we would be in a better



position to attract the best possible coach and create the conditions necessary to improve the performance and results of our national team. Football development requires collective commitment. The EFA has a responsibility to continue doing its part, but with stronger support and investment, particularly from Government, we can do much more for the development of football in Eswatini.

I would once again like to thank all our delegates for their participation and contributions during the Assembly. Let us continue working together towards the progress and development of football in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Thank you.”

EFA SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES 2026 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) successfully convened its Ordinary General Assembly on Sunday, 30 August 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn, bringing together EFA Delegates to review the Association's performance, strengthen accountability and lay the groundwork for the next operational year.



The Assembly served as an important governance platform for the EFA, providing an opportunity for members to collectively reflect on the Association's activities and financial performance while considering priorities for the year ahead. Central to the meeting were the Activity Report and Financial Report, which provided members with an overview of the work undertaken by the Association during the past operational period and the financial position supporting its programmes and activities.

The presentation and consideration of these reports reinforced the EFA's commitment to transparency, accountability and responsible management of football resources. They also enabled members to assess progress made across



the Association's various programmes and identify areas requiring continued attention and improvement. Beyond reporting on the past year, the Assembly provided an important platform for strategic reflection and forward planning. The discussions were aimed at ensuring that the Association's future programmes remain aligned with its mandate of developing and promoting football at all levels across the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The successful realization of the Assembly comes at a significant time for Eswatini football, with the Association continuing to expand its focus on football development, capacity building, competitions, governance, administration, safeguarding, refereeing, coaching and talent development. The meeting further demonstrated the importance of collective participation in the governance of football, bringing together the various stakeholders within the EFA structure to contribute to the direction of the game.



As the Association enters a new operational year, the outcomes of the Assembly are expected to provide a stronger foundation for implementation of its programmes and priorities. The lessons drawn from the previous year's activities and financial performance will help inform decision-making, resource allocation and the delivery of programmes designed to advance football development nationally.

The Assembly also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining sound governance structures as the EFA continues to professionalise its operations and strengthen its institutional capacity.



EFA STRENGTHENS ELITE REFEREEING AHEAD OF 2026/27 SEASON

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has strengthened its preparations for the 2026/27 football season following the successful completion of the FIFA Member Association (MA) Elite Referees Course, which brought together 30 of the country's top match officials.



The five-day FIFA-supported programme, held from 3 to 7 August 2026 at the Lobamba Technical Centre, was designed to sharpen the referees' technical knowledge, decision-making, understanding of the Laws of the Game and overall preparedness for the new football season. The course was officially closed by EFA President Mr Peter Simelane, who was joined by EFA General Secretary Mr Frederick Mngomezulu. FIFA Referees Instructors Mr Mark Mzenge of Malawi and Ms Gladys Lengwe of Zambia facilitated the programme alongside local referee instructors.





The completion of the course is another significant milestone in the EFA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of football officiating in the country while creating a stronger pathway for Eswatini referees to compete for CAF and FIFA appointments. Speaking on behalf of the participants, referee Mr Celumusa Phiri said the programme had provided the officials with valuable knowledge and renewed confidence ahead of the new season. He said the course had not only strengthened their understanding of the Laws of the Game but had also reminded them of the responsibility that comes with being custodians of fairness and integrity in football.



Speaking on behalf of the FIFA instructors, Mr Mark Mzenzo praised the referees for their discipline, commitment and cooperation throughout the course. Mzenzo urged the officials to put their newly acquired knowledge into practice, stressing that continuous application, self-assessment and learning would be essential to improving their confidence and decision-making on the field. He also challenged the referees to set their sights on CAF and FIFA appointments, encouraging them to use the programme as a stepping stone towards achieving greater success at international level.



Closing the course, EFA President Mr Peter Simelane thanked FIFA for its continued support towards referee development in Eswatini and commended the international and local instructors for delivering the programme. Simelane urged the referees to translate their training into improved performances when they take charge of matches during the 2026/27 season. He further encouraged the elite referees to mentor upcoming officials, emphasising the importance of building a sustainable pipeline of refereeing talent in the country. Simelane reaffirmed the EFA's commitment to referee development through regular education programmes, fitness testing and the continued use of modern referee support and performance-analysis technology.



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EFA HOSTS REFEREES SYMPOSIUM AHEAD OF NEW SEASON



The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) hosted a full-day Referees Symposium on 17 August 2026 at Caritas in Manzini, bringing together key stakeholders in refereeing as part of preparations for the upcoming football season.

The symposium brought together Elite Referees, Youth Referees, Referees Association Committee members, the EFA Referees Committee Chairman, Regional Associations Committee members, the EFA General

Secretary and members of the media fraternity. The gathering provided an important platform for referees and football stakeholders to reflect on the demands of modern refereeing, address challenges and strengthen professional standards ahead of the new season.



A key area of discussion was the media and the growing influence of social media. Referees were reminded that their responsibilities extend beyond the pitch, with discussions focusing on appropriate conduct both online and offline, protecting the integrity of the game and understanding how

personal actions and opinions can impact the image of refereeing and football as a whole. The symposium also gave referees an opportunity to openly discuss some of the challenges they encounter while on duty, as well as difficulties experienced while travelling to and from assignments.

These discussions allowed participants to share experiences and identify areas that require attention and improvement. Other important topics included ethics, the Referees' Code of Conduct and safeguarding techniques, reinforcing the importance of creating a safe, respectful and professional football environment for everyone involved in the game.



Closing the symposium, Referees Committee Chairman Scelo Nene thanked all participants for their cooperation and active engagement throughout the day. He assured the referees that the concerns and challenges raised during the symposium would be addressed in due course. Nene further challenged referees to raise their professional standards as the new season approaches, stressing that professionalism will be a key expectation going forward.





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EFA STEPS UP TO PUT SHOES ON CHILDREN'S FEET THROUGH LEGENDS CUP PARTNERSHIP

In a powerful demonstration that football can change lives beyond the 90 minutes on the pitch, the Eswatini Football Association donated pairs of school shoes worth E20,000 towards providing quality school shoes for vulnerable children

through the Donate a Pair Campaign, an initiative spearheaded by the Humanitarian Care Initiative of this year's Legends Cup.



The contribution forms part of the EFA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme and reinforces the Association's belief that football should serve as a catalyst for social development, community empowerment and hope. The donation will provide quality school shoes for destitute and needy children across Eswatini, with the beneficiaries equally divided between boys and girls. Beyond protecting children's feet, the initiative seeks to restore dignity, boost learners' confidence and encourage regular school attendance.

Announcing the donation, EFA General Secretary Mr Frederick Mngomezulu described the partnership as a natural extension of the Association's commitment to making a positive impact in communities. He said football possesses a unique ability to unite people around meaningful causes and that the Association was proud to use the sport as a vehicle to improve lives beyond the football field.



In addition to supporting the campaign financially, the EFA also had its Social Soccer team participate in the Legends Cup, which demonstrated that the Association was fully embracing the spirit of the initiative. The Legends Cup Organising Committee welcomed the partnership, describing the EFA's contribution as a significant boost to the campaign.



Speaking on behalf of the organisers, Mr Nkosilenhle Masuku thanked the Association for answering the call to support vulnerable children. The Legends Cup was hosted on 15 and 16 August 2026 at the King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlanguano, where football legends, corporate organisations and supporters united for a cause that extends far beyond competition.

STRENGTHENING CLUB MARKETING ACROSS THE REGIONS



As part of its continued efforts to strengthen the commercial and marketing capacity of football clubs, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Marketing & Communications Department has rolled out a series of Marketing & Communications Workshops for teams participating in the Regional Super Leagues.

The initiative brought together clubs from the four Regional Football Associations, equipping them

with practical knowledge and strategies to better position, market and communicate their brands, ultimately strengthening their ability to attract sponsors and build sustainable partnerships. The programme has reached all the four Regional Football Association the Shiselweni Regional Football Association (SRFA), Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA) Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA) and Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA), with sessions designed to be highly interactive and practical. Participants explored key marketing principles, brand positioning, digital communication, content creation, audience engagement, sponsorship and the importance of presenting football clubs as professional, marketable brands.





Each workshop provided an intensive day of learning, discussion and practical insights, challenging clubs to look beyond the pitch and recognize the value of their identity, audience and commercial potential. With the programme to continue to the remaining Association which is the Women Football Association, the EFA Marketing & Communications Department is laying a foundation for a more professional, commercially oriented club football ecosystem.

From playing for results to building brands that create value, the future of football marketing starts with preparation.



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CAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: COSAFA QUALIFIERS

Nsingizini Hotspurs F.C. (ladies team's) journey in the CAF Women's Champions League may have come to an end at the group stage, but the Eswatini champions leave the competition having written an important chapter in the history of women's football in the country.



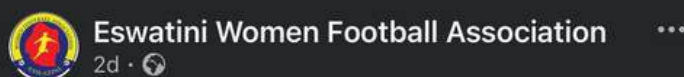
The team participated in the prestigious continental competition for the first time after making history by qualifying to represent Eswatini. Although the results did not go their way, with Nsingizini Hotspurs F.C. (ladies team) losing all their group-stage matches, the experience of competing against some of the region's top women's football teams provided valuable lessons and exposure at the highest level.

Their participation was more than just playing football. Every match presented an opportunity to learn, grow and understand the demands of competing on the continental stage. The challenges faced during the tournament will undoubtedly serve as important lessons as the club continues its development.

The Women Football Association of Eswatini also extended words of encouragement to the team following their elimination, reminding the players that they have every reason to be proud of making history and representing the country on such a prestigious stage. The Association emphasized that great teams are not built only through victories, but also through challenges, setbacks, resilience and the determination to rise again.



Nsingizini Hotspurs F.C. (ladies Team) have opened a new chapter for themselves, their supporters and women's football in Eswatini. Their first appearance in the CAF Women's Champions League should be viewed as a foundation upon which an even stronger future can be built. While the campaign may not have ended as hoped, Nsingizini Hotspurs Ladies FC represented Eswatini with courage and determination, while inspiring young girls who dream of one day playing football on the biggest stage.



To: Nsingizini Hotspurs Ladies FC
You Made History — Keep Your Heads Up!

To the team, we want you to know that you have every reason to be proud of yourselves.

Being eliminated from the CAF Women's Champions League is undoubtedly disappointing, but this is only the beginning of your journey. You qualified for this prestigious tournament for the very first time, and by doing so, you made history and opened a new chapter for your club, your supporters, and women's football.

Every minute you spent on that field was an investment in your growth. You gained experience, faced a higher level of competition, and showed that you belong on the continental stage. The result may not have been what you hoped for, but your courage to compete at this level is already a victory.

Do not allow this elimination to define you. Let it motivate you, strengthen you, and inspire you to come back stronger. Learn from the experience, identify the areas that need improvement, and continue working together with determination.

Remember: great teams are not built only through victories; they are built through challenges, setbacks, resilience, and the determination to rise again.

You have made history by being there for the first time. Now, let this experience be the foundation for an even greater future.

Keep believing. Keep working. Keep fighting. Your journey has only just begun.

We are proud of you. You represented with courage, and you have inspired many young girls who dream of playing football on the biggest stage.



Rise again. The next chapter is yours to write!

EFA SHOWCASES FOOTBALL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT NATIONAL CAREER EXPO 2026

The Eswatini Football Association participated in the Eswatini National Career Expo 2026 on Friday, 31 July 2026 at the Prince of Wales in Mbabane.



The multi-stakeholder initiative brought together learners from the Hhohho region to explore career guidance, skills development, entrepreneurship opportunities and pathways to employment. At its exhibition stand, the EFA first engaged with government officials in attendance before interacting with students on the broad range of professions available in football beyond the pitch. Learners were introduced to careers in administration, coaching, refereeing, sports science, communications, marketing, event management and talent development.

Many young people expressed interest and surprise at the diverse options within the industry. Both boys and girls showed enthusiasm for contributing to the growth of the game in various capacities. The Association also shared details of its development programmes and welcomed ideas from students on how to strengthen youth football.



The Eswatini Football Association remains committed to using football as a platform for education, employment and leadership, inspiring the next generation of professionals who will shape the future of the beautiful game in the Kingdom.

BUILD IT UNDER 13 — 2026 — TOURNAMENT



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BUILD IT EFA UNDER-13 2026

For more than two decades, the Build It EFA Under-13 Tournament has provided young footballers across Eswatini with an opportunity to compete, develop and take their first steps towards realising their football dreams.



The Individual store championships of the 2026 edition kicked off on 8 August and will run until 20 September, with the National Championships to be hosted on the 28th of November, bringing together young footballers from all the regions of the country. But before the first whistle, two players who know the journey first-hand had an important message for the next generation.

Kwakhe Thwala and Neliswa Dlamini, both products of the Build It Under-13 programme who have gone on to play their club football in Zimbabwe and represents Sihlangu SeMnikati, shared their experiences and inspiration to the young players following their footsteps. The two national team players encouraged

the young footballers to conduct themselves with respect, discipline and hard work, reminding them that while many dream of playing in the Build It EFA Under-13 Tournament, not everyone gets the opportunity to do so.

Their own journeys stand as a powerful reminder of what can happen when talent meets opportunity, discipline and determination. Both players also expressed their appreciation to Build It for more than 20 years of continued investment in the development of young footballers in Eswatini, while encouraging Emaswati to come out and support the tournaments and to also show support to the build it brand as whole, but supporting their stores for their building material needs.

U13 FESTIVAL



MANZINI BUILD IT EFA UNDER 13 TOURNAMENT





TIKI TAKA ACADEMY





2026 MANZINI BUILD IT U-13 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

GAMES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST
5	11	5





MATSAPHA BUILD IT EFA UNDER 13 TOURNAMENT



SITEKI BUILD IT EFA UNDER 13 TOURNAMENT



NYAMBO F.C.

2026 SITEKI BUILD IT EFA U-13 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

GAMES PLAYED	GOALS SCORED	GOALS AGAINST
5	12	6



AGE IN MOTION LEAGUE: MBABANE MUNICIPALITY CHAMPIONS SPORT, WELLNESS AND UNITY

The Municipal Council of Mbabane is strengthened its commitment to sport, employee wellness and community development following the successful conclusion of the 2025/26 Age in Motion League, a programme that continues to bring businesses, organisations and communities together through sport.



The season culminated in a celebration attended by representatives of participating organisations, with KFC Mbabane emerging as champions, followed by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) in second place and the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) taking the bronze medal position.

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) was also among the participating teams, reaffirming its commitment to initiatives that use football to promote healthy lifestyles, social interaction and community development. Established in 2022 with 12 teams, the Age in Motion League has grown considerably and now boasts with 38 teams, reflecting the increasing appetite for organised recreational sport in Mbabane.

Opening the celebration, Mbabane Municipal Council Chief Executive Officer Ms Gciniwe Fakudze described Age in Motion as an important platform for the development of the city. Ms Fakudze said the Municipality sees significant potential for the programme to grow even further, particularly through increased participation from businesses and organisations.



For participating organisations, Age in Motion has become much more than a football competition. Representatives highlighted the opportunity created by the league for employees to interact outside their normal working environments, strengthen professional relationships and remaining physically active.

One participating team representative said the programme had become an important part of workplace wellness. The participants also pointed to the importance of physical activity in promoting healthier lifestyles and addressing lifestyle-related health challenges. Mbabane Municipality Mayor His Worship Councillor Thulani Mkhonto thanked the participating businesses and organisations for embracing the initiative and contributing to its continued growth. The Mayor also challenged stakeholders to look beyond the Age in Motion League and explore how sport could contribute more broadly to football development in the city.



Councillor Mkhonto called for greater collaboration between the Municipality, sporting organisations, businesses and communities to create opportunities for people of different ages to participate in sport. He said a coordinated approach could create a stronger sporting environment within the city and provide more opportunities for participation and development.

Representing the Eswatini Football Association, EFA Chief Executive Officer Mr Frederick Mngomezulu expressed appreciation to the Municipal Council of Mbabane for establishing and sustaining the Age in Motion programme. Mr Mngomezulu emphasised that football has a role to play beyond traditional competitive structures.

The EFA CEO further welcomed the Municipality's intention to expand the Age in Motion concept beyond football to include netball and volleyball. He added that the EFA was committed to working with the Municipality and other stakeholders to strengthen football development in Mbabane.

SIPHOCOSINI LEAGUE RECEIVES OVER E50,000 KIT BOOST AHEAD OF NEW SEASON

The Siphocosini League has received a major boost ahead of the new football season, following the presentation of 14 sets of football kits valued at approximately E50,000. The kits were presented on, 14 August 2026, by the Honourable Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Siphocosini Inkhundla Mduduzi Matsebula, as an efforts to support and strengthen football development within the Hhohho Region.



The donation includes kits for all teams participating in the Siphocosini League, as well as a dedicated set of referees' kits. The teams will use the new playing kits during the upcoming season. The initiative forms part of broader efforts to improve the standard and organisation of the teams competing in the Siphocosini League.

In attendance during the presentation was the EFA General Secretary Mr Frederick Mngomezulu and Hhohho Regional Football Association Chairman Dr. Comfort Shongwe, who both acknowledged The Honourable Minister for this kind gesture in enhancing the development of football in the country; and further advised teams to always uplift good sportsmanship.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ESWATINI FIFA-ACCREDITED REFEREES
SANELE NTIBANE & PHOLILE
SIMELANE



who have been selected
for the FIFA New
Referees Course that
will be held in
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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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