

THE FRONT PAGE

In the headlines today: the countdown has begun, with only 100 days to go before the start of the football World Cup and FIFA Secretary-general Jerome Valcke has given the country the thumbs-up. Eskom is expected to sign co-generation agreements with independent power producers this month, in its first concrete step towards bringing in the private sector to help address SA's electricity supply shortfall. Tshwane Metropolitan Council has come under fierce criticism from residents and waste removal workers over its handling of problems related to the non-removal of rubbish. And the opening of an exhibition by young black women artists at Constitution Hill turned sour when Arts and Culture Minister Lulu Xingwana stormed out of the exhibition, calling the work "immoral".

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: the countdown has begun. With only 100 days to go before the start of the football World Cup, FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke has given the country the thumbs-up; Deputy President Kgalema Motlante says the World Cup's legacy for South Africa, is educating the youth through football. The heat is on Julius Malema. City Press yesterday dared the controversial African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) President to sue them, as the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) also vowed it would not back down to get him to pay a slew of unpaid traffic fines; the prosecution in Jackie Selebi's corruption trial claimed a small victory; and former intelligence boss Barry Gilder gave a testimony behind closed doors yesterday.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

100 days to soccer spectacular

The countdown has begun. With only 100 days to go before the start of the football World Cup, FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke, who has been accompanying the media and football officials on a countrywide inspection of the venues, has given the country the thumbs-up. Massive celebrations are expected across South Africa today, with street parties in Durban and Sandton leading the way.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR; SAFM NEWS @ 06:00; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00; SAFM NEWS @ 06:00

Malema to explain financial affairs

African National Congress Youth League leader Julius Malema's lawyer, was expected to face tough questions on Tuesday morning about his lifestyle. The league said Tumi Mokoena would answer all the questions raised about Malema's financial affairs, since it emerged he allegedly owned part of a company that benefited from government contracts. On Monday last week, Malema said he resigned from several companies but could not prove it. Then he said he had the resignation documents but did not have to make them public. Over the weekend, it emerged he owned 70% of a company that had built bridges for Limpopo councils. He then claimed a signature on the shareholders' documents was forged by a reporter. Mokoena can also expect to be asked how Malema maintained a Sandton house and what appeared to be flashy clothes on just one ANC salary.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 07:00; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Newspaper challenges Malema: Prove us wrong!

The heat is on Julius Malema. City Press yesterday dared the controversial African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) President to sue them, as the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) also vowed it would not back down to get him to pay a slew of unpaid traffic fines. Malema has stacked up at least 12 unpaid traffic fines over the past two years, in Johannesburg alone - 11 for speeding and one for skipping a red light. It was also revealed yesterday that he has been driving without a valid license since September last year. The Gauteng traffic department has refused to whether Malema has outstanding traffic fines. They say they are not allowed by law to disclose people's personal accounts or credit status irrespective of their social status.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); SAFM NEWS @ 06:00

Minister to probe washed away bridges

Transport officials will look into reports that several newly built bridges and roads in Limpopo have been washed away, Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele said yesterday in an apparent reference to work carried out by a company allegedly owned by African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) President Julius Malema. "It is a serious matter... Roads are the responsibility of the national department of transport and local municipalities," Ndebele said at an infrastructure ministerial cluster briefing.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Gilder testimony backs up what Agliotti about Selebi

The prosecution in Jackie Selebi's corruption trial claimed a small victory. Former intelligence boss Barry Gilder gave a testimony behind closed doors yesterday. Gilder confirmed the existence of the draft intelligence report, which contained an allegation that Selebi was being paid by his mining magnate Brett Kebble and that intelligence later apologised to Selebi. Gilder's testimony backs up claims by state witness Glenn Agliotti. The convicted drug lord told the court that the former police commissioner showed him the document. State Security Ministry had tried to prevent Gilder from testifying, but Constitutional Court dismissed their objections that his testimony would endanger national security. The state is expected to wrap-up its case in former police commissioner's corruption trial today.

ENews PRIME @ 19:00; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

POLITICAL NEWS

'Watch out for World Cup scare-mongering'

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille has warned senior officials and politicians in the City and province to watch out for World Cup journalists trying to squeeze controversial statements out of them.

Commenting after a police briefing on World Cup security at the Premier's Metro Co-ordinating Forum on Thursday, Zille said it was important that safety and security measures worked well not only during the World Cup, but also before the event. "There are a lot of journalists who want sensational stories in the run-up to the World Cup. Be very careful not to be caught off-guard with a sensational quote," she said. Zille said it was important not to "pump up" international fears, and mentioned the recent attack on the Togolese football team during the Confederations Cup in Angola as an example of how perceptions could go wrong.

IOL.CO.ZA

PAM want Robben Island named after Robert Sobukwe

The Pan African Movement (PAM) has called for Robben Island to be renamed after Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) stalwart Robert Sobukwe. The party was holding a rally in commemoration of Sobukwe in Khayelitsha on the Cape Flats. The PAC splinter group says the current government has failed to recognise Sobukwe's contribution to the fight against apartheid. To reverse that, they want a number of leading landmarks to be renamed after Sobukwe - among them Robben Island, the Cape Town International Airport and the University of Fort Hare. Sobukwe founded the party in 1958 and became its first president after breaking away from the ANC. He died of cancer in February 1978 in Kimberley aged 54, nine years after his release from Robben Island. He was initially jailed for incitement after the Sharpeville Massacre in March 1960.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

City Press denies Malema forgery accusations

The City Press newspaper said on Monday it completely denies claims by African National Congress Youth League leader Julius Malema that the paper's reporter forged his signature on a shareholder's document. Malema made the claim during a rally in Durban on Sunday. The City Press said it had documents showing Malema owns 70 percent of the shares in the company SGL Engineering. The firm benefited from government contracts in Limpopo. Last week, Malema first said he had resigned from the company but could not prove it. Later he claimed he could prove it but did not owe the public an explanation. City Press editor Ferial Hafferjee maintained they did not forge Malema's signature.

EWN.CO.ZA

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

FIFA media briefing on security

Media are invited to a press conference at 13:00 on 5 March 2010, where FIFA Secretary-General Jérôme Valcke, Local Organising Committee (LOC) CEO Danny Jordaan and representatives of both the South African police and those from the other 31 participating countries will be present. Some of these representatives will be available for one-on-one interviews following the press conference. The conference follows the security plans workshop that will be held on 4 to 5 March at FIFA in Zurich. Police representatives and chiefs of security of the 32 participating national teams will come together with FIFA, the LOC, representatives of the SA government and Interpol to exchange information and discuss in detail the security plans of the government for the event.

BIZCOMMUNITY.COM

Traffic cop slaps pregnant woman

A heavily pregnant motorist got the "shock of her life" on Sunday, when a female Msunduzi traffic officer slapped her through the open window of her vehicle when she decided to cross over an intersection between runners participating in the Postnet Weekend Witness Maritzburg Marathon. Buyisiwe Makhoba, who works as a customer services co-ordinator for Hulamin, said she was driving to work shortly before 06:00 when the incident happened at the intersection of Washington and Oripi roads.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

DA comments on assault of pregnant motorist

The alleged assault of a pregnant motorist by a female Msunduzi traffic officer over the weekend has been described as excessive by the Democratic Alliance (DA). The incident took place on Sunday when Buyisiwe Makhoba was trying to edge her car through a gap between runners at the Maritzburg Marathon. Makhoba described the altercation as shocking and has laid a charge of criminal assault against the officer. DA spokesperson for KwaZulu-Natal Transport, Radley Keys said there are too many law enforcement officers who think they are above the law. The matter is under investigation.

WITNESS

Prison boss retires after blunder

The Westville Prison official who accused the SA Human Rights Commission of ordering an electric fence to be shut down, which allegedly led to the escape of eight dangerous prisoners, has retired. Head of the prison, Bheki Mabanga made the statement last Tuesday and has led to the commission seeking disciplinary action to be taken against him. Spokesperson for the commission Vincent Moaga said the Mabanga's actions were irresponsible and the organisation will never compromise the rights of South Africans by making such recommendations. However, due to Mabanga's retirement, no action can be taken against him.

MERCURY

Driver packs 100 kids into bus

An 18-seater school bus was impounded and the driver arrested after it was spotted travelling through Mitchell's Plain packed with 102 children, Cape Town traffic services said on Friday. Spokesperson Merle Lourens said the bus had a false licence plate, its back brakes were not working, its safety windows had been replaced with perspex and wooden benches were fitted inside for extra seats. "Officers found scholars aged between five and 13 years sitting on the floor and on each other's laps," she said. The 49-year-old driver was arrested and faces several charges, including driving without a licence and a professional driving permit. The Western Cape government last year launched an intensive campaign to crack down on unsafe buses.

WHEELS24.CO.ZA - WHEELS 24

Parents warned to be vigilant of child traffickers during SWC

Child Welfare South Africa has called on parents to be vigilant of child trafficking during the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Child Welfare South Africa says more measures have to be put in place to protect children during the tournament. The say children will be more vulnerable to trafficking as schools will be closed for more than a month. The Welfare organisation says children who are often victims of child traffickers come from rural areas and poor households.

SAFM NEWS @ 12:00

Prostitution will happen - FIFA

Does FIFA approve of Cape Town's crackdown on sex workers ahead of the Soccer World Cup? The organisation's General Secretary Jerome Valcke did not seem too sure at a media briefing in the city on yesterday. "What can I answer?" he said in response to a reporter's question. "Whatever I'm saying, I will say something wrong." The city's metro police, at the urging of mayoral committee member for safety JP Smith, have for several months been regularly rounding up streetwalkers and raiding brothels. Valcke said on Monday however that this was not at FIFA's request.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; EWN.CO.ZA; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 13:00

Former spy bosses Selebi evidence to be made public

Judge Meyer Joffe on Monday ordered that the transcript of former national intelligence coordinator Barry Gilder's testimony must be made public. Gilder this morning testified in the South Gauteng High Court in the corruption trial of former police chief Jackie Selebi. Gilder's testimony took roughly an hour to complete. Media and members of the public waited on the benches outside courtroom 4B for the duration of the evidence. Although Judge Joffe ordered the transcript be made public, two pages of a document submitted as evidence will be kept confidential. Selebi's legal team had asked that everything be made public to allay speculation that he was being shielded by the government.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 12:00; NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Warrant of arrest was fraudulent

Six police officers attached to the Johannesburg organised crime unit used a fraudulent warrant of arrest to place Teazers strip clubowner Lolly Jackson behind bars. The warrant of arrest submitted to the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday indicated that it was issued in the same court on 8 February, for an offence committed on "6 October 2010". The police used the same warrant to keep Jackson for two days in the Johannesburg Central Police Station High Centre as an awaiting trialist along with suspects charged with serious violent crimes. The warrant of arrest, the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court found, was not authorised or signed officially by a presiding magistrate.

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Eskom's power price hike strike looming

Gauteng Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) members are planning a two-day strike over Eskom's power price hikes. Last week, energy regulator, the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) announced it would allow the power utility to increase tariffs by around 25 percent a year, over the next three years. The trade union federation said public hearings on the matter were never taken into consideration and the decision did not represent the interests of the poor. Cosatu's Gauteng Provincial Secretary Dumisani Dakile said this was a bad decision made by members of the board.

EWN.CO.ZA

Gold Fields faces strike

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) threatened a nationwide strike at Gold Fields mines, should the mine not abolish a compulsory testing system for workers, the company said. Gold Fields spokesperson Willie Jacobsz said the company received notice from the union to embark on a strike at all Gold Fields' operations in South Africa from 7 March. The Mine Health and Safety legislation in South Africa required employers to implement a Functional Work Capacity Testing System together with an associated Code of Practice, to ensure workers met basic standards of fitness required to work safely in underground situations. The NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka said Gold Fields were using the system to unfairly retrench workers.

The Business Day cited NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka as saying, "You see, they set human resource targets and then do whatever is necessary to meet them."

CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 12:00; IAFRICA.COM; BUSINESS DAY (National), BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

52 000 NUM workers could strike at Gold Fields

Production at all of Gold Fields' South African operations will come to a halt on Sunday if a strike by 52 000 workers affiliated with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) goes ahead. The union has called the strike over the "irregular" implementation of the flexible work capacity testing system which allows mining firms to relive medically unfit workers of their duties. However, the union says that Gold Fields is using the system to retrench workers, not as a safety tool. NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka said that close to 3 000 workers have been "fired" using the system. "We are not opposed to the functional work capacity but certainly have a problem with the manner in which it is implemented," he said.

BUSINESS TIMES

NEWS BRIEF

Transport expected to disappoint

An independent transport analyst on Monday warned thousands of soccer enthusiasts would be disappointed with the country's public transport. Authorities have just over three months to put a world class public transport system in place. Analyst Paul Browning said international visitors would be in for a rude awakening when they arrived. Deputy Transport Minister Jeremy Cronin admitted it was going to take a number of years to fix public transport, adding the current state of public transport was a disaster. "We're not just thinking 2010 and the World Cup; we're thinking to start rolling out integrated public transport systems. Decent transport to South Africans who simply don't have it, the situation with public transport is pretty dire," said Cronin.

EWN.CO.ZA

Chile quake: Sun Int shuts hotel

JSE-listed hospitality group Sun International said Monday its Chilean resort, Monticello, was damaged in the massive earthquake on Saturday morning. The resort is located approximately 60km south of Santiago. According to Sun International's CEO David Coutts-Trotter five people were injured, one seriously. He said the resort had evacuated over 3 500 people to safety in less than eight minutes. "There has been significant damage to the casino and retail complex including the convention centre and administration areas, some of it due to the quake and aftershocks and some due to the sprinkler system, which was activated during the tremor," Coutts-Trotter said. "As an indication of the severity of the quake, a two-ton safe moved over a metre during the tremor." He said the resort will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Cup will help educate the youth

Deputy President Kgalema Motlante says the World Cup's legacy for South Africa, is educating the youth through football. South Africa launched a programme called 'Football for Home', in Cape Town last night, to educate the youth and teach life skills. Motlanthe also used last night's gala dinner to celebrate the countdown, to commend the work done by FIFA, construction workers and sport administrators, to prepare for the tournament.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

11% of tickets sold to South Africans

Eleven percent of tickets sold so far for the FIFA World Cup have been bought by South Africans, which is nine percent lower than FIFA's target of 20 percent. According to Human Sciences Research Council researcher Udesh Pillay, if local sales do not pick up, the tournament could lose money. Pillay wrote a book called Development and Dreams: The Urban Legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and it found that the tournament will leave many positives for the country.

CAPE TIMES

Road fund changes challenged

The Law Society of South Africa's court challenge to the constitutionality of amendments to the Road Accident Fund got under way yesterday in Pretoria's High Court. The Law Society argued that the amendments, which abolish the common law right to sue the wrong doer in an accident and put a R160 000 cap on claims for loss of income, infringed on people's constitutional rights to bodily and psychological integrity and property.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Feeder routes held hostage - DA

The introduction of feeder routes for the Bus Rapid Transit system could not be held hostage by taxi associations, Democratic Alliance (DA) spokesperson Nico de Jager said yesterday. The introduction of the routes has been delayed by two weeks to allow city authorities and taxi associations to agree on the system's operational plan. The feeder routes would have made the transit system more accessible.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

McBride 'not a murderer', damages reduced

His defamation case against The Citizen wasn't about the money, former Ekurhuleni metro police chief Robert McBride said yesterday. "It was about the principle," he said in response to a Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) ruling that mostly favoured McBride. The court said The Citizen was wrong to call McBride a murderer and a criminal in editorials and a column by a freelance journalist in 2003.

STAR

Old flag banned at stadium

The old South African flag has been banned from Cape Town's 2010 soccer stadium, along with items such as tear gas and pointy umbrellas. The flag is on a list of forbidden items displayed at entrances to the 68 000-seater showpiece, which on Monday hosted a whistlestop visit from a group of invited local and international media. It is listed just above "banners or flags with content that can reasonably be considered to be sexist, racist, vulgar, discriminatory, inflammatory or offensive". Also banned are firearms, ammunition, knives, and any sharp or pointed metal object which could be reasonably considered a dangerous weapon. Cup Local Organising Committee chief Danny Jordaan said he was unaware of the restriction on the old flag, and did not know if it was in force at other 2010 stadiums in the country.

IAFRICA.COM

More energy providers

Eskom can no longer be regarded as the country's single energy provider and will "very shortly" sign co-generation agreements with outside power producers, Public Enterprises Minister Barbara Hogan said on Monday. The contracts to provide additional power would be signed with companies such as Sasol and Sappi, Hogan said at an infrastructure ministerial cluster briefing in Cape Town. An independent power producers' framework was "virtually in place" for Eskom to purchase power from people building generators and power stations as well as from suppliers "outside of the country", she said. It is anticipated that co-generation will add about 1 143 megawatts to the power supply.

CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 13:00; IAFRICA.COM; ENEWS PRIME @19:00

Durban gears up for 2010 World Cup countdown feasts

The vibe in Durban is electric as party-loving city dwellers gear up for the main "100 days countdown" to the FIFA Soccer World Cup celebrations taking place today. Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, who is also Chairperson of government's 2010 Inter-Ministerial Committee, is expected to lead the country's celebrations.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Cup 100 days party today in Sandton

Don your soccer gear, bring along your vuvuzela and prepare to get down on the streets of Sandton today as soccer fever grips the nation. The party will take place from 11:00 to 15:00 at the Sandton Convention Centre in celebration of 100 days to kick off of the first FIFA World Cup on African soil.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Cape Town venue 'world class'

Cape Town stadium is the benchmark of all World Cup venues. This glowing appraisal of the stadium came from none other than FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke yesterday, ahead of the massive celebrations to mark the 100-day countdown to the soccer spectacle. "The pitch is immaculate and it is conducive for good football and I have no doubt that players will enjoy strutting their stuff at such a beautiful surface. I am going to reveal the best stadium so far, but as far as the infrastructure is concerned, it is undoubtedly one of the best venues in the world," said Valcke. Western Cape Premier Helen Zille praised the workers who built the stadium.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); ENEWS PRIME @ 07:00

HEALTH NEWS

No shortage of measles vaccine - MEC

The Western Cape Health MEC on Sunday rubbished claims the province faced a measles vaccine shortage. Thousands of primary school learners were set to receive jabs on Monday as part of the provincial health department's measles immunisation programme. More than 400 cases had been confirmed in the Western Cape, prompting the department to declare an outbreak. Health MEC Theuns Botha said the vaccination programme was brought forward to control the spread of the communicable disease. Botha was confident the vaccine was readily available at clinics and state hospitals across the province.

EWN.CO.ZA

Doctors threaten go-slow

Around 7 000 doctors countrywide are threatening an immediate go-slow and more serious action if their demands are not met by April. The doctors say the Health Department is dragging its feet in implementing the Occupation Specific Dispensation and have given the department a month to sort this out. The threatened go-slow in March will involve only doing the bare minimum on the job. If their demands are still not met by April, they'll refuse to work any overtime. The Health Ministry says its doing its best to catch up with outstanding payments and although not willing to disclose the details, they say they will be prepared if the doctors do go on strike.

ENews PRIME @ 19:00

Doctors to repay the Health Department

Some state doctors have to return up R20 000 to the Health Department due to problems caused by the implementation of the Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD). OSD payments have seen some doctors being overpaid and others getting salary cuts. The South African Medical Association has complained that salary payments under the OSD have been poorly managed. The Health Department has asked the doctors to stop threatening to strike and work with them to implement the OSD.

SAFM NEWS @ 06:00

PROVINCIAL NEWS

BCM under fire for 'dropping the ball'

Sports Minister Makhenkesi Stofile has lashed out at the Buffalo City Municipality (BCM) for failing to secure a 2010 World Cup training venue arrangement, accusing officials of "dropping the ball", notes a Daily Dispatch report. Speaking at a provincial government World Cup summit this week, Stofile said the City had lost its steam generated during the tenure of former deputy mayor Des Halley, a football fanatic who died in 2004 of a heart attack.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

SA promises to be ready on time for World Cup

Give us six weeks. Okay, maybe make it seven weeks. That is the message coming from the Mpumalanga and North West provinces on their readiness to host their allocated 2010 World Cup games as South Africa begins the 100 days countdown to kick-off on 11 June. If the provinces are not ready, whoever is responsible will face the wrath of the government under the leadership of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Sport's, Butana Komphele. Komphele at the weekend promised to come down hard on any service providers who will fail to meet their construction deadline. He was addressing guests at a dinner hosted by Mayor of Mbombela, Lassy Chiwayo, during the 100 days media road show which is touring the 10 World Cup host stadiums.

SOWETAN (Late Final), Sport

MEC takes a ride to check out public transport

Slow moving buses, congested routes and costly tickets are among the complaints Western Cape Transport MEC Robin Carlisle heard from commuters when he took a ride with Golden Arrow in the morning rush hour yesterday. Passengers complained that taxis were unsafe and trains overcrowded, Carlisle boarded a bus in Mowbray and rode to the Cape Town terminus. Carlisle says he hopes to convince motorists to use public transport to reduce the number of vehicles on the road but it will require a large investment to convince motorists that public transport is safe and reliable.

CAPE TIMES

Biggest and fastest yachts to dock in Cape Town

One of the world's biggest and fastest yachts and the first of a new breed of racing multihulls is due to arrive at the V&A Waterfront this morning to promote and trace the route of a new 16 300 nautical mile Indian Ocean race. According to Lou Newlands, spokesperson for OC Event, the organiser of the proposed Indian Ocean Cape Races in 2012, this race is one of a kind as it is the only one that starts and finished in the Middle East.

CAPE TIMES

Lennit Max is waiting for an apology

Western Cape Community Safety MEC Lennit Max will have to wait a while longer for the apology he seeks from his ex-spin doctor. Max returned to work today after taking leave after a sex scandal involving him and a former police clerk. Max's former spokesperson Julian Jansen accused him in a letter to Premier Helen Zille of conducting adulterous affairs with two of his female staff. Max's lawyer, Cornelius Veldtman in a letter said that if Jansen fails to apologise, they will have to take legal action.

CAPE TIMES

Joburg mayor says power price hike is 'unacceptable'

The Johannesburg Council said yesterday that the 24.8% power tariff hike granted to Eskom last week was unacceptable and would severely affect the poor. "The City of Johannesburg is extremely disappointed by the 25% hike in electricity prices for three successive years approved by energy regulator Nersa," Mayor Amos Masondo said. "A price hike of more than four times the rate if inflation is unacceptable to consumers. We trust that Eskom will reconsider this proposal before a final decision is taken," he added.

STAR

Msunduzi employees continue strike

Employees from the Msunduzi Municipality are demanding that the running of the municipality be taken by the provincial Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Department. Leaders of the South African Municipal Workers' Union met protest marchers yesterday and told them to forge ahead with the protest, which includes grievances over non-payment of overtime. Mayor Zanele Hlatshwayo and the management committee task team met yesterday to discuss the protester's demands.

WITNESS

Flat fire warnings ignored - report

The Kruger Park block of flats in the Pretoria CBD, where a fire claimed five lives on 22 July 2008, had no fire fighting equipment, fire extinguishers or water on the day of the blaze. The so-called Mosoma report by the Tshwane metro council, which was leaked to Beeld on Friday, also showed that the council was warned about a fire hazard in that block as well as the adjacent Schubart Park block two years prior to the blaze. These two blocks also posed a biohazard due to poor management and incidents of rage over the planned eviction of payment defaulters from Schubart Park, according to the report. The fire was started in the Kruger Park block when the eviction at Schubart Park went badly wrong on 22 July 2008. Sheila Zvorufura, 30, Adeola Nosa Osunde, 19, Fadekemi Olusanya, Zakhele Mkansi, 21, and three-month-old Tomi Olusanya died in the fire.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Vaal residents protest

Sharpsville residents in the Vaal have set a train alight. The angry community has also barricaded routes demanding basic services. Protests have spread through to Everton and Boiketlong. March organiser William Mokoena says they are tired of empty promises by government officials.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 13:00

Protesters damage property

Early morning protesters were reportedly damaging property in Thembelihle, near Lenasia, Metro police said on Monday. "We received reports of the protesters at 05:50 today but when we got to the scene, they were gone," Superintendent Wayne Minnaar said. "We don't know what they were protesting about." On Sunday, police reported that protesters in the same area had destroyed electricity supply boxes. No arrests were made as the group dispersed and ran into nearby homes, said Inspector Kay Makhubela.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

60 held in Lenasia electricity process

The cutting off of illegal power connections sparked violent protests in the Thembalihle informal settlement in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, yesterday. About 60 people were arrested for public violence after police clashed with residents, who were throwing stones at vehicles. Two police cars were damaged during the protest. Residents who have made illegal connections from high-mast lights in the area said they were angered at the cutting off of their power source last week.

STAR

ANC to meet Orange Farm residents

African National Congress (ANC) officials will meet Orange Farm residents today in the wake of a series of violent protests over the lack of basic services. Residents took to the streets last week, but tensions were defused when Johannesburg officials promised to help to resolve their complaints. ANC Chief Whip Mathole Motshekga was preparing to meet residents to see first hand what was being done. This morning there are renewed service delivery protests in Driziek near Orange Farm. The residents have blockaded parts of the Golden Highway with burning tyres.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

EDUCATION NEWS

Literacy and numeracy comprehension gap is closing

Although less than half of Grade 6 pupils who participated in provincial tests assessing their numeracy and literacy skills comprehended and passed Grade 4 numeracy work that was included in the assessment, the results show encouraging improvement. Their numeracy was also tested at Grade 7 level. The overall results of provincial Grade 6 tests showed that 17.4 percent of pupils had the required numeracy skills for their grade level, compared to 14 percent in 2007. Education MEC Donald Grant said on Friday the gap between those who could, and those who could not comprehend literacy and numeracy at lower grade levels, was closing.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Teachers battle to implement new assessments system

Many of South Africa's teachers are still unsure how to prepare for national assessments, planned for grades three, six and nine. President Jacob Zuma announced new plans to tests pupils' ability in literacy and numeracy. The initiative has been hailed as moving in the right direction. Government has allocated R29 million for the initiative. In the lower grades, research shows that learners have poor ability in reading and doing mathematical sums. National assessments will now be done at the end of the year to test the ability of children in these areas. However, teachers say, they have only received an assessment file, with no further explanation. According to grade six teacher, Sipiwe Mzintane, no one has come to the school to facilitate the process and tell them what to do. Mzintane says they have workbooks but they are clueless about what they should do.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

UCT GSB appoints new Research Director

The UCT Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) has appointed award-winning Associate Professor Dr Ralph Hamann as its new Research Director. Hamann will add significantly to the GSB's endeavours to grow research in emergent markets and sustainable business. Hamann joined the GSB as Associate Professor in January this year, and was handed the title of Research Director just weeks after taking up his permanent post at the School (he had been working at the GSB on a contractual basis since September 2009).

SKILLSPORTAL.CO.ZA

UCT Law students' abilities questioned

In a recent article published in the Sunday Times, it was alleged that UCT's Law Faculty consisted of students of which at least 70% could barely calculate simple tasks or research legal documents. This was later found to be incorrect. UCT requested the newspaper to print a correction to the article. Nic Swart of LEAD was incorrectly quoted in The Times. At no time was a study done of UCT LLB graduates. LEAD requested its own Practical Legal Training School based at UCT to conduct the research which was not done on UCT graduates.

SKILLSPORTAL.CO.ZA

Hostel reopens amid lesbian claims

The boarding school in the South Coast where 300 girls were removed for allegedly having lesbian relationships has been reopened after a meeting during the weekend. The meeting attended by parents, teachers, the school governing body and education department officials decided that the hostel should reopen while the investigation into the allegations continue. The allegations surfaced when two girls were caught kissing at the school last week.

MERCURY

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

South Africans in Chile accounted for

The International Relations Department on Monday said all South Africans at the Chile Embassy were accounted for after a devastating earthquake over the weekend. The 8.8 magnitude quake left more than 700 people dead and sparked tsunami warnings to several countries across the Pacific. The department's Nomfanelo Kota said so far no South Africans were affected by the disaster. The department urged South Africans who may have family in Chile to contact their operations centre.

EWN.CO.ZA

Davies to seek urgent meetings with Kumba, Arcelor, Anglo

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies will seek urgent meetings with Kumba Iron Ore (KIO's), Anglo American (KIO's majority shareholder) and ArcelorMittal SA to discuss the reasons for, as well as the implications of, KIO's announcement that it would cancel the cost plus 3% iron ore pricing arrangement it had with the steel group as from yesterday. The decision led to the suspension of trading in ArcelorMittal SA's shares on Friday, with trade only set to resume again tomorrow, when the steel group is due to make an announcement clarifying the possible implications of KIO's move, which it planned to contest legally. The Department of Trade and Industry's Chief Director of Industrial Policy, Nimrod Zalk, tells Engineering News Online that the department had already begun to study the possible implications on steel prices should ArcelorMittal SA have to begin paying "commercial rates" for its key steel-making ingredient.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA, BUSINESS DAY (National), BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Hogan slams ANC, Eskom deal

Barbara Hogan, Minister for Public Enterprises, including Eskom, has branded the African National Congress's (ANC's) business interest in the utility's huge construction programme an inappropriate conflict of interest. Hogan, whose independence has frequently landed her in hot water with ANC bosses, made the comment under persistent questioning at a news briefing in Cape Town yesterday. She was asked if she was aware of public outrage about the involvement of the ANC's business arm, Chancellor House, in Eskom's R385 billion build programme. Chancellor House has been widely reported to hold a 25% stake in Hitachi Power, which has won contracts to build boilers for the country's two new power stations. One published estimate suggested the contract could be worth over R5 billion to the ANC. Hogan said, "A conflict of interest in a sense that the ruling party benefited from this thing? Yes, certainly it is not desirable."

STAR, THE TIMES

Ndebele eyes ring-fenced funds to solve pothole crisis

The national roads system is top notch and repairs can be swiftly made, according to Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele, but the provincial and municipal road maintenance programme is severely wanting. To overcome this, road allocations from the fiscus could be "ring-fenced" to ensure the funds "for tar" were spent, Ndebele said yesterday. At a Parliamentary briefing on the government's infrastructure programme, Ndebele said there was "no maintenance backlog on the national network."

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Hogan: ANC's slice pie is 'minor'

Public Enterprises Minister Barbara Hogan initially tried to justify the involvement of the African National Congress's (ANC's) investment wing, Chancellor House, in Eskom power projects by saying that it won "a very minor contract" and did not suggest that the ruling party's involvement would push up electricity costs. At a media conference on infrastructure at Parliament yesterday, she also reported that the partial privatisation of power generation would be fast-tracked, with the first deals to be signed "soon" - within the month of March - with independent power producers, within and outside the country. They are believed to be able to provide about 1 000MW, which would be fed into Eskom's grid. In the wake of the average 25.5% annual hike in tariffs for three years, Hogan said her ministry would have to work out the shortfall for Eskom's R486 billion build programme and how much would be covered by the hike.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Transport department wants funds to address roads

The Department of Transport is in talks with the Treasury about the possibility of setting aside dedicated funds to address backlogs in the construction of national, provincials and municipal roads. The backlog of funding road infrastructure amounts to about R64 billion, and the transport department hopes that more funds will be made available for infrastructure development in smaller towns once preparations of the Soccer World Cup have been completed.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Zuma must take decisive stand on Zimbabwe at UK talks

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has urged President Jacob Zuma to use his upcoming official visit to the United Kingdom to take a decisive stand on Zimbabwe. Zuma left for the UK yesterday to strengthen bilateral relations. But he's also expected to use the visit to call for an end to the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. The DA's James Wallmart says Zuma needs to focus on South Africa's stance on the sanctions.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 13:00; BUSINESSDAY.CO.ZA - BUSINESS DAY

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, factory activity surged to its highest level in nearly three years last month, pointing to a possible revival in consumer demand, SA's main growth engine. The Kagiso PMI climbed to 60.4 last month from 53.6 in January - well above expectations and its highest since March 2007. Tongaat Hulett yesterday posted a strong set of results, increasing profit 37% to R1.55 billion from R1.13 billion, and lifting earnings 44% to R839 million for the year ended 31 December. Tongaat Hulett benefited from a raw sugar price that surged in the second half of last year, as bad weather limited output in Brazil and India. Phuthuma Nhleko is to step down as Group President and Chief Executive of MTN by March 2011. The MTN Group Limited announced that Phuthuma Nhleko will not be renewing his long-term contract of employment, which ends on 30 June 2010.

NEWS REVIEWS

Pleasant surprise as factory activity hits a high

Factory activity surged to its highest level in nearly three years last month, pointing to a possible revival in consumer demand, South Africa's main growth engine. The Kagiso purchasing manager's index (PMI), a reliable health gauge for manufacturing output, climbed to 60.4 last month from 53.6 in January - well above expectations and its highest since March 2007. That signals economic growth may have accelerated beyond its already robust pace late last year, and puts the rebound in SA's second-biggest sector in step with its main trading partners. "We were surprised - we thought it would go up, but not to the extent that it has," said Andre Coetzee, head of fixed income and currency futures at Kagiso.

BUSINESS DAY (National); BUSINESS REPORT (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Investors say labour laws hold back inflows

International investors have criticised South Africa's labour laws as the single biggest hindrance restricting investment growth, Laura Pienke, and analyst from Frost & Sullivan, said yesterday. The growth partnership company established this while developing a strategy for advancing manufacturing for the Department of Trade and Industry. Pienke said the government was aware of these issues but not much was being done to sort them out. "There are no specific labour laws that are a hindrance. A lot of the Indian and Chinese companies like to use their own technicians and staff from their own countries. They are happy to transfer skills to local employees but they don't, for example, like to be told that it should be within a certain timeframe," said Pienke. "Another issue that has been raised is that it is difficult to get rid of nonperforming workers if they need to fire them."

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Acquisitions of SA companies to gain momentum

South African companies are becoming increasingly attractive as acquisitions for foreign investors seeking to grow their presence in developing markets. "Globally, there is a perceptible increase in interest in African markets and in the advantages of using SA multinationals as a springboard to them," Gareth Driver, mergers and acquisitions specialist and head of the commercial department at Werksmans, said last week. Driver was commenting on broad mergers and acquisitions trends in SA following the DealMakers 2010 awards held last week. He said while it was still an emerging trend for foreign investors to seek acquisitions in developing markets, it was expected only to gain momentum in the next two or three years.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Auditors pleased with transformation

Transformation is blooming in the auditing profession in the wake of the public practice examination results, which were released at the weekend by the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (Irba). The results show that 78% of the 1 094 black candidates who wrote the public practice exam last year were successful. Bernard Agulhas, CE of Irba, said that, "transformation of the auditing profession remains a high priority for Irba, and what is particularly gratifying about these results is that this is the highest number of black candidates to pass in the history of the examination. We are elated by these superb results and congratulate all the candidates on a job more than well done."

BUSINESS DAY (National)

New stores help retailers weather recession

Retailers have emerged relatively unscathed from the recession that seems to be leaving South Africa behind. The results SA's shopkeepers-in-chief have announced in recent weeks have given comfort. "We've come out of a bit of downturn and these guys haven't really been affected on earnings," said Jihad Jhaveri, a portfolio manager and equity analyst at Kagiso Asset Management in Cape Town. Earnings were, on the whole, decent. Clothing retailer Truworths said pretax profit for the half-year to December rose 10% to R1.27 billion and gross margin rose to 56%. Woolworths said the gross profit margin at its SA operations - both clothing and food - increased as it saved on procurement costs and spent less on promotions.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

MTN CEO to step down

Phuthuma Nhleko is to step down as Group President and Chief Executive of MTN by March 2011. The MTN Group Limited announced that Phuthuma Nhleko will not be renewing his long-term contract of employment, which ends on 30 June 2010. Consequently, he will stand down as Group President and CEO. Nhleko has, however, agreed with the Board to continue in his current role up to March 2011. During the remainder of his tenure, Nhleko has agreed to particularly focus on achieving certain key objectives, including facilitating a seamless transition once his successor has been appointed.

mybroadband.co.za; TIMESLIVE.CO.ZA; BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets; BUSINESS DAY (National); BUSINESS REPORT (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

Telkom battles with repairs in Kramerville

Businesses in Kramerville, Sandton, are still operating without phone lines three weeks after repairs began on three underground cables. According to Telkom, the damage was caused by construction and vandalism, Heavy summer rainfall exacerbated the problem when water leaked into the sheathing of the damaged cables. Telkom last week reported that the problem would be resolved by Thursday, 25 February. Yesterday, Telkom spokesperson Pynee Chetty said the cables were connected on Sunday. But there is still the possibility that one or two customers will still experience problems," he added.

STAR

Maize on the rise

Maize in South Africa rose yesterday as prices gained in the US, which competes for export markets in Africa. White maize for July delivery, the most active contract, rose R20 or 1.7% to R1 205 a ton on the South African Futures Exchange. Yellow maize for July delivery gained R17 or 1.4% to R 1 264 a ton. The grain is used mainly as animal feed in SA. Wheat for May delivery increased R28.80, or 1.3% to R2 197 a ton.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, factory activity surged to its highest level in nearly three years last month, pointing to a possible revival in consumer demand, South Africa's main growth engine; however, food inflation which, according to Statistics South Africa's latest announcement, stood at 2.4% in January, is still higher than that in developed countries. In business news, the government has named lead managing banks for a ten-year dollar-denominated benchmark bond likely to be launched today, a source at one of the banks said yesterday; and Capitec Bank will continue its new financial year, which started yesterday, by adding 50 branches over the next 12 months to the 400 that it already operates.

NEWS REVIEWS

Foreign investors say labour laws hold back inflows

International investors had criticised South Africa's labour laws as the single biggest hindrance restricting investment growth, Laura Peinke, an analyst at Frost & Sullivan said yesterday. The growth partnership company established this while developing a strategy for advanced manufacturing for the Department of Trade and Industry. Peinke said that the government was aware of these issues but not much was being done to sort them out. "There are no specific labour laws that are a hindrance. A lot of the Indian and Chinese companies like to use their own technicians and staff from their own countries. They are happy to transfer skills to local employees but they don't, for example, like to be told that it should be within a certain timeframe," said Peinke.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Food inflation still a concern

Food inflation which, according to Statistics South Africa's latest announcement, stood at 2.4% in January, is still higher than that in developed countries. The Reserve Bank's target band for inflation is as 3% to 6%. The most recent report from the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) says that high inflation is something of the past in most countries - except in Turkey and Tanzania, where it is still 9.4% and 11.3% respectively. In South Africa prices of agricultural commodities have fallen considerably in the past year, but in rural areas prices of grain products have not, but have instead risen. The prices of wheat between January 2009 and January 2010 fell 24.58%, maize 22.57% and sunflower seeds 18.49%.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Banks named for bond launch

The government has named lead managing banks for a ten-year dollar-denominated benchmark bond likely to be launched today, a source at one of the banks said yesterday. The joint-lead managers are Deutsche Bank and Standard Bank, with Nedcapital as co-lead. The lead managing banks will discuss pricing and other issues related to the launch.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Blue separates roles of CEO and chairperson

Pan-African micro-financier Blue Financial Services has split the role of chairperson and CEO by appointing Siphso Twala as its independent non-executive chairperson from yesterday. Blue was one of 10 Alt-X listed companies in which the role of chairperson and CEO vested in one person. Blue's board now has seven non-executive directors. Twala is also non-executive Chairperson of 1time airline and Dust Aside SA, and an executive director of Safomar Aviation.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

House prices to rise 8% after last year's lows

The average price of houses is forecast to grow 8% this year as demand rises from the dismal lows of early last year, but the market is still not out of the woods. The First National Bank (FNB) house price index released yesterday showed a further increase in year-on-year inflation, from a revised 3.6% in January to 5.8% in February. FNB property strategist John Loos said the increase in house inflation was largely the result of last year's big interest rate cuts and some moderate easing of bank lending criteria, although "a gradually improving economic growth rate must be starting to make a positive contribution too".

BUSINESS DAY (National); BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Actuarial society appoints CEO

The Actuarial Society of South Africa has appointed Emil Boeke as its first CEO, effective yesterday. Boeke, a seasoned actuary with international experience, previously held the position of technical director. Society President Peter Doyle said the launch late last year of SA's own professional actuarial qualification had established the society as a full service professional body.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The eight out of 10 rating given to South Africa by FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke yesterday after completing his inspection of two more of the stadiums for the Soccer World Cup is a strong endorsement of the country's readiness to host soccer's showpiece event. The fact that Cape Town Stadium passed its inspection with flying colours is a remarkable achievement in itself considering the many challenges that were encountered during the construction process. Indeed, this stadium's emergence into a world class venue, despite the numerous problems it faced, is an example of what South Africa has become and will develop into by the time the tournament kicks off on 11 June. By then, South Africa would have weathered the teething problems, the doubts and concerns and developed into a World Cup host nation rivalling any other.

News Reviews

Valcke gives SA 8 out of 10 following inspection

FIFA General-Secretary Jerome Valcke yesterday gave South Africa an eight out of 10 rating after inspecting almost all of the stadiums and facilities that will be used during the Soccer World Cup in June. "If you asked me where we are on a scale of one to 10, I would say we are at eight out of 10," Valcke said. The contingent of 130 local and international media, the Local Organising Committee, FIFA and government officials will complete their tour of all the World Cup stadiums today when they inspect the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban. Cape Town Stadium and Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium were inspected yesterday. Cape Town Stadium, in particular, passed with flying colours.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day

Telkom Knockout draw results

The last 16 draw for the Telkom Knockout was made yesterday. The fixtures are as follows:

Ajax Cape Town v Moroka Swallows
Orlando Pirates v Bloemfontein Celtic
BIDVest Wits v Jomo Cosmos
Mpumalanga Black Aces v SuperSport United
AmaZulu v Maritzburg United
Santos v Kaizer Chiefs
Free State Stars v Mamelodi Sundowns
Golden Arrows v Platinum Stars

THE TIMES

New insight gained from Indian tour, says Van Zyl

South African cricket coach Corrie van Zyl said he has gained a clearer understanding of what needs to be done ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup on the subcontinent next year following his team's recent tour of India. Van Zyl, who was appointed to the position less than a week before he team's departure following the sudden resignation of Mickey Arthur, was speaking upon the Proteas' return to South Africa yesterday. "I went there with a lot of guys that are probably going to represent SA next year. I've come back with information with regard to the squad, and with regard to the way certain individuals performed under certain conditions," Van Zyl said

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day

Southern Sun to be base for Bafana

Sandton's Southern Sun Hotel will be Bafana Bafana's base camp for the duration of the upcoming 2010 World Cup. Uncertainty emerged early this week when reports indicated that the national football team will not be able to make use of the facilities at Esselen Park due to the fact that the complex is run down. Speaking to The Citizen on Wednesday, South African Football Association (Safa) spokesperson Mono Sanyane said the Sandown High school will be used as a "training venue" for the national squad. "The training venue is about a five minute walk from the hotel," Sanyane added.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.6579	(+0.0021)
Rand - Sterling £	11.4233	(+0.1923)
Rand - Euro €	10.3313	(+0.0679)
JSE Allshare	27026.0	(+261.41)
Gold	1114.0	(+5.75)
Platinum	1548.0	(+15.00)
Brent Crude Oil	77.9	(+0.31)

The figures quoted are from the close of business yesterday, along with any movement, either up or down, from the previous day.

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	16	(29)
Cape Town	18	(23)
Durban	22	(25)
East London	14	(23)
Johannesburg	16	(28)
Kimberley	12	(31)
Mafikeng	18	(30)
Nelspruit	17	(30)
Pietermaritzburg	20	(24)
Polokwane	14	(30)
Port Elizabeth	13	(23)
Pretoria	18	(30)