

THE FRONT PAGE

In the headlines today, Trafalgar Square in London was virtually empty yesterday during President Jacob Zuma's state visit - compared to the multitudes who came to see Nelson Mandela 14 years ago - but the crowd around Buckingham Palace was a little larger than the one during Thabo Mbeki's visit in 2001; talks had failed by yesterday to resolve the dispute between ArcelorMittal SA and Kumba Iron Ore; and President Zuma will today present British Prime Minister Gordon Brown with a new proposal aimed at breaking the impasse over the European Unions's continued sanctions against Zimbabwe.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: Trafalgar Square in London was virtually empty yesterday - compared to the multitudes who came to see Nelson Mandela 14 years ago - but the crowd around Buckingham Palace was a little larger than the one during Thabo Mbeki's state visit in 2001; the British media's hostility towards President Jacob Zuma could have adverse consequences for the relations between South Africa and the United Kingdom, according to a leading political commentator; and Julius Malema's 29th birthday in Seshego, Limpopo, yesterday cost more than R400 000.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Pomp and ceremony

Trafalgar Square in London was virtually empty yesterday - compared to the multitudes who came to see Nelson Mandela 14 years ago - but the crowd around Buckingham Palace was a little larger than the one during Thabo Mbeki's state visit in 2001. Madiba overshadowed the queen, while Mbeki's state visit was low key. but President Jacob Zuma was a curiosity.

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

Bubbly Malema birthday

Julius Malema's 29th birthday in Seshego, Limpopo, yesterday cost more than R400 000. Speaking at the event, he lashed the media, saying the liberation struggle, and not the media, had made him. Sapa quoted an SABC report in which Malema blamed "left-wing leaders who drink red wine" for his recent woes. The podium was decorated in African National Congress (ANC) colours and portraits of Malema. A frail Sarah Malema, the birthday boy's grandmother, walked up to the podium to wish her grandson a happy birthday. She said criticism would help Malema to grow.

STAR; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

Media attitude towards JZ could damage SA, UK relations

The British media's hostility towards President Jacob Zuma could have adverse consequences for the relations between South Africa and the United Kingdom, according to a leading political commentator. "Is this going to create a defensive reaction? It could worsen relations between the UK and SA," University of Johannesburg's Centre for the Study of Democracy Director Steven Friedman told The Citizen yesterday. This comes in the wake of certain British media launching scathing attacks on Zuma, who is on a state visit to the UK.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

POLITICAL NEWS

No right to judge JZ, says caller

The British journalist who called President Jacob Zuma a sex-obsessed bigot has defended his article by saying that when he criticised the National Party government in the 1980s, he was also accused of trying to destroy South Africa. Stephen Robinson from the Daily Mail was speaking as a guest on John Perlan's Kaya FM talkshow last night. South Africa was now a grown up democracy and should stop perceiving themselves through the eyes of the foreign media.

STAR;

IFP favourite backs out of race

The Chairperson of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Zanele KaMagwaza-Msibi has backed out of the running for the next IFP presidency. The party placed adverts in major KwaZulu-Natal newspapers today featuring KaMagwaza-Msibi urging people to rally behind the leadership of IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi. University of KwaZulu-Natal political commentator Zakhele Ndlovu said KaMagwaza-Msibi found herself in a difficult position. On one hand, she wants to respond to the calls of her supporters to stand for election but at the same time she is aware that if she wants to survive within the party, she has to please the leadership.

MERCURY

MPs want more action on rehab of derelict mines

MPs from across the political spectrum complained yesterday that not enough had been done to rehabilitate derelict and disowned mines. Their comments were based on the findings of a special investigation by the auditor-general that estimated that the total cost of rehabilitating these mines would be roughly R30 billion. The report concluded that insufficient action had been taken to deal with the 5906 derelict and abandoned mines, 1 730 of which have been categorised as high risk in terms of acid mine drainage. In their defence, officials told Parliament's Mineral Resources Committee that the government was having to address the legacy of more than a century of mining operations over which there had been little regulation regarding rehabilitation. They promised that a plan with clear targets and budgets was being worked on and a dedicated rehabilitation oversight committee would be established.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Malema fights 'imaginary enemies'

Young Communist Youth League National Secretary Buti Manamela says African National Congress Youth League President Julius Malema is doing battle with imaginary enemies. "They are speaking in his head." Manamela told The Citizen yesterday. He was responding to Malema's reported charge that "left-wing-leaders who drink red wine" (in a veiled reference to SA Communist League boss Blade Nzimande) were behind his recent woes. Manamela said communists - "whether drinking wine or not" - had better battles to fight than waste their time on Malema's "unnecessary provocation and irritation".

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Zuma assures safe World Cup

President Jacob Zuma has revealed South Africa's stringent safety and security measures for the 2010 World Cup. He revealed the information during a celebration to mark 100 days to the 11 June kick-off held in central London on Tuesday night. Zuma said that part of the plan involves the deployment of more than 40 000 police officers during the sports spectacle. In close attendance were South African expatriates in the UK, members of the diplomatic corporations and the business community. Zuma used the opportunity to announce a special dispensation for the estimated 450 000 ticket holders attending the games. "Visas will be issued to nationals travelling from non-visa exempt countries, who are able to provide proof of purchase of a FIFA match ticket. We will not compromise on security, as applicants will still have to comply with the normal visa requirements," says Zuma.

SABCNEWS.COM

Immigrants put strain on police

Illegal immigrants are stretching police resources and manpower. The country's provincial police chiefs said in Parliament on Tuesday that the government doesn't budget for the "millions" of illegal immigrants who have to be policed out of sheer necessity. Calvin Sengani, chief of police in Limpopo, made it particularly clear when he spoke about the pressure placed on resources by the constant influx of Zimbabweans: "They're flooding our towns and cities. They cause a great number of problems with crime. We arrest them and protect them with resources that are intended for our citizens." The police station in Musina is one of the ten stations in Limpopo where the most serious violent crimes are reported.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

City of Cape Town needs more traffic officers

The City of Cape Town's efforts to curb speeding and other traffic violations are being hampered by a shortage of staff. Safety and Security mayoral committee member JP Smith said that the city urgently needed about 100 traffic officers so that it could fulfil its speed enforcement obligations. The city only has 400 law enforcement officers.

CAPE TIMES

Contact crime drops 9%

Contact crimes against private businesses in South Africa have dropped by 9% in the past year but half of those surveyed were affected by crime, according to an international survey conducted by Grant Thornton. The Grant Thornton International Business Report 2010 showed that the past year's decline to 55% confirmed a downward trend since 2007 when the survey started. In that year, 84% of businesses surveyed had been directly affected by contact crime. Leonard Brehm, the national Chairperson of Grant Thornton South Africa, said the trend of dropping contact crime against business owners could be attributed to the amount of money business owners have invested in security. "Business owners cannot even tell you what is influencing this drop. But security has become a huge cost to their businesses," Brehm said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Confessions convict Richter killers

A Johannesburg judge has used the confessions of three men charged with the murder of Heia Safari Ranch owner Franz Richter to justify his decision to convict them. Judge Piet Meyer was today expected to rule whether the men were hired by Richter's common-law wife and co-accused, Celiwe Mbokazi, to commit the murder and robbery on 28 November 2007. Yesterday, Judge Meyer formally acquitted Ronnie Khumalo, the father of Mbokazi's two-year-old daughter, on charges of murder and robbery, citing the prosecution's failure to prove its case.

STAR

Mbalula accused of ducking

A heated row has broken out in Parliament over the treatment meted out to the Cape Town jogger arrested two weeks ago after allegedly showing President Jacob Zuma's convoy the middle finger. Deputy Police Minister Fikile Mbalula refused to reply to questions from opposition MPs yesterday about whether Chumani Maxwele's treatment at the hands of Zuma's protection detail would be investigated. He insisted that the matter was sub-judice as Maxwele intended filing a civil claim against the police.

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Platinum Australia hit by strike at Smokey Hills

Platinum Australia, which is developing platinum projects in South Africa, yesterday reported that a strike at its Smokey Hills mine had halted almost all operations there. "The employees have been advised by the contractor to return to work or face dismissal for participating in unprotected industrial action," the firm said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

NEWS BRIEF

SARS takes R17m in cars

The South African Revenue Services (SARS) has taken three vehicles worth nearly R17 million belonging to a Durban couple whose taxes were not in order, The Mercury newspaper reported on Wednesday. On Tuesday, SARS took possession of Sbu and Shawn Mpisane's Rolls Royce Phantom convertible, valued at about R7 million, and two Lamborghini's valued at about R4.5 million and R5 million, The Mercury said. It is believed that through their different business dealings, the Mpisanes owed SARS about R50 million and it is unknown how much of that had been paid, The Mercury said. Shawn Mpisane denied that the couple owed SARS money.

IAFRICA.COM

'Never any doubt about SA' - Blatter

FIFA President Sepp Blatter on Tuesday reiterated his faith in South Africa and declared that there was never a doubt that the nation would meet the deadlines set by the football governing body ahead of the start of the 2010 World Cup in June. Blatter said that while there were times when he had to crack the whip and demand a greater sense of urgency from SA, he was now satisfied that the country was firmly on course to hosting a successful tournament. "There was never a doubt in my mind that Africa was a good choice," Blatter said. "Sometimes, sometimes we had to put some pressure on SA, I admit. But there was never any doubt."

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day, MTNFOOTBALL.COM, SUPERSPORT.COM, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Rooi Els residents help five beached dolphins

Residents of Rooi Els spent exhausting hours trying to return a small pod of dolphins to sea after they had beached themselves. Authorities from Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) were immediately called and were soon on the scene to co-ordinate rescue efforts with municipal officials and the National Sea Rescue Institute. Mike Meyer, spokesperson for the MCM, said that they were five common dolphins which had stranded themselves. The residents did well to get them back into the water. Meyer said they had lost sight of the creatures after dark last night and he hoped they had managed to swim safely into the bay.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

SPCA warned of horse brutality

The SPCA has warned of a new hobby that involves youngsters stealing and racing horses, before brutally abusing them until they die. SPCA Chief Executive Allan Perrins said that although the society had received close to 200 allegations in the past 10 months about cruelty to horses, the latest trend was an exceptional one. Perrins explained that there had been numerous reports from people in the Macassar and Faure areas of horses being stolen by teenagers, then used for their own recreation in the most barbaric way. Bukshi, an 18-year-old Arabian mount belonging to Anthea Myburgh, from a farm in Faure, was the recent victim of such a kidnapping and abuse, which ended in death. She immediately called the vet, but Bukshi had to be put down owing to the severity of his injuries.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Soccer City officially handed over to Joburg mayor

Soccer City, built to resemble a calabash, was yesterday officially handed over to the City of Joburg. The completed stadium, which was handed to City of Joburg Mayor Amos Masondo is the largest in Africa, said infrastructure organisation, the Aveng Group and its subsidiary Grinaker-LTA. "Like an African calabash that securely stores food and drink, this calabash-inspired stadium will securely hold almost 90 000 fans, who will witness the opening game of the 2010 FIFA World Cup," said Aveng Group Chief Executive, Roger Jardine. The stadium took 10-million hours to construct and it was built on the grounds where Bafana Bafana qualified to take part in their first ever World Cup. The stadium has 87 000 seats with its design ensuring that no spectator is over 105 metres away from the pitch.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

Tito wins hate speech case

The Equality Court in Pretoria ruled in favour of former SA Reserve Bank governor Tito Mboweni on Wednesday in a discrimination case brought against him by businessman Mario Pretorius. The court ruled that the utterances made at a shareholders meeting were nothing more than a storm in a teacup. Pretorius took Mboweni to court for alleged racist comments he made during a shareholder meeting in September 2008, contending they amounted to hate speech and were unfair and discriminatory. He dismissed arguments that Mboweni's statement was triggered by his "rude behaviour", saying his use of the word "sir" indicated he was being respectful.

IAFRICA.COM

KFC helps to fix potholes

The City of Joburg now has R200 000 more to fix potholes, thanks to fast food chain, KFC. The announcement follows city manager Mavela Dlamini's recent call for help from the private sector and the community to assist the council, through the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), to take action to alleviate the pothole problem on Johannesburg's roads. "This was an easy decision for us," explained KFC spokesperson Tanya van Schalkwyk. "KFC head office in the US has participated in similar initiatives to repair local roads. The bad state of Joburg's roads is an issue that does not only affect our customers, but it will affect the thousands of fans descending into our great city in June."

STAR

Shaik in 'good health' after year

One year has passed since the country's best-known fraudster was released on medical parole, usually only granted to prisoners in the final phase of a terminal illness - but Shabir Shaik is still very much alive. On the anniversary of his release from prison, The Citizen yesterday sent a bouquet of flowers and a "get well soon" balloon to Shaik at his Morningside mansion in Durban - but he was not there to receive the gift. Shaik-spotting has become somewhat of a tourist attraction in Durban, as President Jacob Zuma's former financial adviser has frequently been spotted around the city, despite his supposed strict bail conditions.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Chamber wants probe into Eskom's 'sweetheart deals'

The Cape Chamber of Commerce says it would like to see a full and transparent investigation into Eskom's "sweetheart deals" with the aluminium smelting industry. "It has become clear that South African consumers are subsidising the cheap electricity used by the smelters and we can no longer afford to do so," said Albert Schuitmaker, acting Director of the chamber. "The smelters were the main reason for Eskom's R10 billion loss last year and we know that Eskom has failed to deal with the problem, despite an instruction from the Eskom board to the former CEO to renegotiate these contracts." Eskom has been secretive about the deals and has refused to disclose details, claiming that they are confidential and that the 30- to 40-year contracts were negotiated when there was surplus generating capacity. The BHP Billiton smelters import bauxite aluminium ore from Australia and use subsidised Eskom electricity in arc furnaces to produce the metal which is then exported. In effect, SA is exporting electricity.

CBN.CO.ZA

CT must 'plan for storms'

Cape Town should brace itself for bigger storms dumping massive amounts of rain, as climate change takes hold, an environmental expert said on Tuesday. Gregg Oelofse, the city's head of environmental policy, was speaking at the release of a report on his department's ongoing sea-level rise risk assessment project. The report found that given the "weak" outcomes of Copenhagen climate change summit in 2009, the world was assured of a minimum global temperature increase of 2C and "more realistically", 3C. "These temperature increases... place our coastal vulnerability as a very real concern that holds multiple implications for our city. The risks associated with sea-level rise events can no longer be viewed as something to be addressed into the future, but must be considered as a priority in our immediate planning and management," it found.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

New road safety campaign in the Western Cape

Western Cape and City of Cape Town authorities have launched a new road-safety campaign aimed at halving the number of road deaths in the province by targeting people talking on their cellphones while driving. Community Safety MEC Lennit Max and Transport MEC Robin Carlisle yesterday travelled in the City's Ghost Squad and Blue Eagles to observe the launch of the 30-day blitz. This campaign aims to halve road fatalities by 2014.

CAPE TIMES

New anti corruption hotline in the City

The City of Cape Town has launched an anti corruption hotline for housing complaints. This is part of a full-scale investigation of allegations that councillors and community leaders are involved in fraudulent and illegal activities. Mayor Dan Plato says the allegations emerged during various public meetings.

CAPE TIMES

Msunduzi Mayor slams manager

Municipal manager Rob Haswell has been blamed by Msunduzi Municipality mayor Zanele Hlatshwayo for the problems the municipality are facing. Hlatshwayo slated Haswell for taking leave when he had to account to the council's executive committee, whose members are under pressure from the municipality's employees to resign. Haswell has been on sick leave for more than two weeks and was absent during a briefing by Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Nomusa Dube almost a month ago, when it was revealed that the council had run out of money.

MERCURY

Gauteng lacks cash for housing target

Gauteng Finance MEC Mandla Nkomfe might have impressed the legislature this week when he announced a R12 billion allocation for building houses in the next three years, but the Department of Housing said it is not enough to meet demand. Local government and housing acting head of department Mongezi Mnyani said yesterday that while the department welcomed the budget, the amount was not enough to deliver the necessary 200 000 units a year. Gauteng has a target of eradicating all identified informal settlements by 2014. The province is the most populous in the country, with more than 10.5-million residents, and people continue to migrate to Gauteng in search of a better life.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Poor attendance delays start of Limpopo countdown celebrations

Poor attendance delayed Limpopo 2010 World Cup countdown celebrations by two hours. The event, hosted at the University of Limpopo, was scheduled to start at noon, but only began at 14:00. Disappointed Premier, Cassel Mathale, who was supposed to deliver a keynote address, left after 12:00 because there was no sign of the event starting by that time. Polokwane 2010 Marketing and Communications Manager Mantlako Sebaka said that the festivities started late because there were very few youths. "We had to delay the start to ensure that we have the youth in attendance. We are disappointed about the attendance." His concerns were echoed by the Polokwane 2010 World Cup Director Ndvhe Ramakuela, who said there was a need for marketing of and mobilisation for the event.

SOWETAN (Late Final)

Meyerton residents battle for return of goods

Petrol-bomb flames licked at the bodywork of a police Nyala armoured vehicle as it manoeuvred through a barricaded street in Meyerton, south of Johannesburg. Not even the presence of Vaal resident and Gauteng MEC for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Nelisiwe Mbatha-Mthimkhulu could calm the Vaal town's angry residents yesterday. The protesters vowed not to disperse until families who had their furniture confiscated by the Midvaal municipality had their possessions returned, even after Mbatha-Mthimkhulu told them she had obtained an undertaking from the council to return the impounded furniture.

STAR

Whites and blacks stand together, refuse to pay rent

For what is claimed to be a first in South Africa, white and black residents of Brits are standing together, refusing to pay rent to the municipality. The residents stand united in their anger and refuse to pay for services that are not rendered. Raw sewage bubbles out of open manholes and undrinkable water flows out of taps. To add to the mass protest, municipal employees have also downed tools. Meanwhile, white residents have taken their protest a step further, which has not gone down well with Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Sicelo Shiceka: "We have discovered that over 280 rate payers in South Africa, which unfortunately are white, have created a parallel government where they take the money - instead of paying the municipality- and have put it in a trust account," said an angry Shiceka. The Madibeng municipality refused to comment.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

SANParks open to SA during World Cup

A large portion of the accommodation that was reserved exclusively for the FIFA World Cup will be released to the public today, South African National Parks (SANParks) said yesterday. SANParks Managing Executive of Tourism and Marketing, Glenn Phillips, said a total 14 731 rooms were due to be released.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

EDUCATION NEWS

MPs tour CPUT campus

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training were inspecting the CPUT's facilities and its operations. Committee Chairperson Marius Fransman asked how the institute had helped its graduates enter the labour market. Another committee member reiterated Fransman's sentiments, saying there was a poor link between education and training at the country's universities. Most of the MPs present expressed concern at the slow rate of transformation at the country's higher education institutions. They said some universities were showing disregard for the process.

EWN.CO.ZA

Another student killed close to school

Adenaan Hendricks left an event hosted by his old school in time to meet his strict 23:30 curfew, but he never made it home. Instead, the 19-year-old youth became the 18th person to be stabbed at or near a Western Cape school since the beginning of the year. Adenaan was stabbed in the shoulder in the scuffle. He died on Monday after doctors told his heartbroken family that their son was brain dead and switched off the respirator that was keeping him alive. Bronagh Casey, spokesperson for Education MEC Donald Grant, said Friday night's stabbing had occurred after a Beacon Hill Secondary fundraising event held at nearby Imperial Primary School.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

CPUT affairs discussion in parliament

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) affairs including student grievances about fees, enrolment and the slow pace of transformation came under the spotlight at Parliament's Portfolio Committee meeting on higher education and training yesterday. Committee Chairperson Marius Fransman said that he believes CPUT is doing good work but the impact of the merger is not yet properly dealt with in terms of transformation.

CAPE TIMES

Varsities will not close due to protest action

There are no plans to close the campuses of two KwaZulu-Natal universities today, according to management. This comes as the SA Students Congress plan to embark on a strike to demand free higher education. Sasco officials said at a press briefing yesterday in Johannesburg that nine universities would close down due to the protest action. These included the University of Zululand and Durban University of Technology.

MERCURY

Parktown Boys teachers fingered over initiation

Two teachers at Parktown Boys have been given 72 hours to respond to a complaint that could see them charged over an initiation ceremony that took place at the school in February last year. Pene Kimber, the mother of the boy who was victim of the initiation ceremony, laid a complaint against the school and three senior teachers, whose names are known to The Star. Kimber said she first contacted the Gauteng Department of Education to lay her complaint in February last year, but it was only this week that she received a response.

STAR

UCT branch of the ANCyl wants an apology from Price

The University of Cape Town (UCT) branch of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) has demanded that vice-chancellor Max Price apologise for disrespectful comments he made in a speech last week. Price was speaking at the memorial service of slain UCT sociology student Joseph Dominic. He lashed out at government's inability to fight crime.

CAPE TIMES

Sasco demand free education

South African Students Congress (Sasco) is threatening a complete standstill today. It says it will close down nine of South Africa's universities while it stages protest action to demand free education. These are the university which might go on strike, Universities of Johannesburg, the Western Cape, Limpopo, Venda, Zululand as well as the universities of technology in Durban and the Cape Peninsula. At least one of the universities, Tshwane University of Technology, says classes will go on as normal despite the threats of protest. Sasco has called on government to take the issue seriously.

SAFM NEWS @ 06:00; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Mom sues varsity, crèche

A Soshanguve mother has instituted a R350 000 damages claim against the University of Limpopo and a local crèche, claiming an occupational therapist had broken her cerebral palsied daughter's leg while giving a demonstration to students. Catherine Nkonyane yesterday testified in the High Court in Pretoria how her daughter Mbali (now seven), who has cerebral palsy and cannot talk or walk unaided, had returned from crèche one day in August 2006 with reddish marks on her knee and was crying in pain.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Govt to reveal energy projects

All projects sought by the government to generate about 10 000GWh of renewable energy by 2013 could be identified by the third quarter of this year. These projects will be operated by independent power producers. Chairperson of the National Energy Regulator's (Nersa's) sub-committee on electricity, Thembanani Bukula, says that with the fixing of Eskom's tariffs, the regulator approved about R12 billion to enable Eskom to negotiate with independent parties and enter into contracts between 2010 and 2013. Developers have for years been struggling to get Eskom so far as to conclude electricity-purchase contracts with them. These companies, which will have to make huge capital investments, require contracts to obtain funding. Sake24.com understands that government wants to enter into 20-year contracts with the producers, at prices based on renewable-energy tariffs approved in 2009.

FIN24.COM

Possible broadband for 1.4-million South Africans

The Communication Department is working on increasing broadband penetration in Mzansi by an additional 3%, to enable 1.4-million people to access broadband services. This is part of three draft policies which will be sent to Cabinet for approval before heading to parliament. Communication Department spokesperson Tiyani Rigkotsso says the department has also completed the policy on the digital migration and the set-top box decoder manufacturing standards.

YWORLD.CO.ZA

Zuma asks for new Zim sanctions deal

President Jacob Zuma will today present British Prime Minister Gordon Brown with a new proposal aimed at breaking the impasse over the European Union's continued sanctions against Zimbabwe. The two leaders are scheduled to meet at 10 Downing Street this morning and the Zimbabwean political crisis will dominate the agenda. Zuma, who is on a three-day state visit to the UK, yesterday received a royal welcome to the country - despite fierce criticism of the polygamist president on some British newspapers.

THE TIMES; CITIZEN (Second Edition); PRETORIA NEWS; STAR; TALK RADIO 702NEWS @ 06:00; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 06:00

Motlanthe rejects additional lifestyle audits

While the mechanisms to combat corruption, including lifestyle audits by the South African Revenue Services (SARS), were in place, what was needed now was the resolve to enforce them in such a way as to convince South Africa that the government was determined to combat corruption, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said yesterday. Answering questions in the National Assembly, he faced a barrage of tough inquiries about perceptions that the government was merely paying lip service to the idea of fighting corruption. President Jacob Zuma last week rejected the suggestion of a lifestyle audit.

BUSINESS DAY (National); KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Patel to table economic development plan

Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel will officially release his department's strategic plan this morning, after mounting pressure came from the opposition for the release of the document, which has already been described as "protectionist". Democratic Alliance (DA) Trade and Industry spokesperson Pierre Rabie said that the plan - snippets of which he has gleaned from leaks from the department - was "a clear signal that the minister has no grip on economic policy and would rather rely on apartheid-style protectionism as a means to allay underlying problems, such as labour market rigidities and failing parastatals". Patel's spokesperson, Zubeida Jaffer, confirmed the release of the plan but said the minister would appear before the economic development and trade and industry portfolio committees this morning, at which point he was likely to be interrogated on it.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Sanral secures R16bn funding

The South African National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) had raised R15.9 billion of funding for the expansion and upgrade of toll roads, it said yesterday. The funding would partly be used for the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project, which the agency plans to complete before the World Cup. Sanral said its second bond auction for this year under its domestic medium-term note programme had raised R837 million. The bonds carry a full guarantee from the government.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National); PRETORIA NEWS; STAR

Banks deny they will pay to convert taxis

A fight is brewing between the Transport Department and banks over who will bear the cost of upgrading panel vans that were illegally converted into taxis. George Mahlalela, the new Director-Department of Transport, claimed last week that all the banks that had financed illegal conversion had agreed to finance the upgrades. "In many ways, the taxi industry has been a victim of circumstances. For taxi operators who bought them for cash, that (the upgrade) will be at their own expense. All those banks are on board for those vehicles they financed," he said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

ANC working on removing politicians from management

If government gets its way, political office bearers soon won't be able to hold management positions in municipalities. This emerged during the governance and administration cluster briefing in Parliament yesterday. Government has already drafted several pieces of legislation in a bid to improve service delivery and these are expected to come before cabinet later. Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Sicelo Shiceka, has managed to convince the African National Congress of this and he has also managed to convince President Jacob Zuma that municipalities should only hire people with suitable skills and experience. For now what is left for the ruling party to push the proposed legislation through Parliament. The cluster claims that this intervention is different from previous ones as it is driven by government itself without any use of consultant.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, business confidence improved in February, according to the BCI released by Sacci on Wednesday. The BCI increased by 1.8 index points between January and February 2010, registering 83 in February 2010. "The BCI has performed as expected in February 2010 with business confidence responding to positive medium-term economic developments," Sacci said. The number of business affected by crime may have fallen last year, but the high crime rate remained the main reason business people wanted to emigrate, according to a study released by accounting firm Grant Thornton yesterday. More than half of the 300 businesses surveyed indicated they were affected directly by contact crimes in the past year. Aspen Pharmacare is banking on a revamped Latin American business to boost its fortunes as it increases revenue by about 20% to more than R1 billion a year.

NEWS REVIEWS

Business confidence on the up

Business confidence improved in February, according to the Business Confidence Index (BCI) released by the SA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sacci) on Wednesday. The BCI increased by 1.8 index points between January and February 2010, registering 83 in February 2010. This was 1.5 points below the February 2009 level. "The BCI has performed as expected in February 2010 with business confidence responding to positive medium-term economic developments," Sacci said. Despite fewer sub-indices having a positive impact on the BCI in February 2010 than in January 2010, lower liquidations data and increased manufacturing output had a significant impact, Sacci added. However, the negative influence of international trade through both import and export volumes continued to weigh on the local business environment, it said.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK; BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Job creation must come before empowerment

Broad-based black economic empowerment (BBBEE) should be subordinated to the imperatives of a job-creating industrial policy, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said yesterday. To this end, the BBBEE laws should be amended to prevent "import fronting", whereby black-owned companies won government tenders but simply imported their inputs to the detriment of local companies and jobs. Cosatu said the fact that much of the procurement for the government's 2010 infrastructure development programme had been imported was "scandalous".

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SABC in bid to avoid court case over benefits

The SABC is to enter into mediation with 1 800 employees and pensioners today in a bid to avoid a lengthy court case over its decision to stop paying its portion of medical aid contributions. The cash-strapped broadcaster has already lost a case against 95 pensioners, who sued over its decision to suspend its contribution to their medical aid schemes and scrap their cheaper TV licences without consultation. The present legal battle is being brought by the same lawyer, Piet Bester of Johannesburg law firm Blake Bester. If mediation fails, the applicants will return to the South Gauteng High Court on Monday.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

New talks to look at 'various options' for Sea Kay

Sea Kay Holdings was withdrawing the cautionary announcement it issued in January, the financially distressed listed mass affordable housing company said yesterday, but said it had entered into new discussions that might have an effect on the price of its share if they were successfully concluded. In January, Sea Kay issued an almost identical cautionary announcement related to a previous cautionary published in December. An executive director of the company explained at the end of January that it issued a cautionary announcement on 7 December because of talks taking place about a takeover by a big construction company, but those talks were terminated a week earlier. However, the executive said fresh talks with another company about a possible takeover or cash injection had commenced, adding that the parties were looking at "various options".

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Maize deliveries to silos rise

Maize deliveries from farms to silos rose last week, data showed yesterday, and maize futures closed higher due to a weaker rand during grain trading and firmer international prices. Total maize deliveries to silos since the beginning of the marketing season last May rose to 11.312-million tons in the week to 26 February from 11.30-million tons in the week before, the South African Grain Information Service said yesterday.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel will officially release his department's strategic plan this morning, after mounting pressure came from the opposition for the release of the document, which has already been described as "protectionist"; and South Africa has covered its foreign borrowing needs for the coming year, scooping up \$2 billion without any fanfare on global markets this week on terms that show investors have confidence in its policies and growth path. Looking at business, Santam's full-year profit rose 49% after the value of its investments surged; and Sasfin's headline earnings for the six months to December last year slipped 27% to R48 million, hit by an economy still feeling the lag effect of the global financial crisis, the bank said yesterday.

NEWS REVIEWS

SA worried about UK recovery

Sought: British investors for South Africa's power industry and electricity producers. In London on Tuesday Dr Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, said that investment opportunities arising from government's new Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2), as well as the role that private entities can play in the country's electricity provision, will be high on the agenda when South African and British business representatives meet in the City on Wednesday. The meeting forms part of President Jacob Zuma's first state visit to Britain, and will be attended by almost 400 business people from both countries, Davies said. The recession has somewhat negatively impacted trade relations with Britain, one of South Africa's top five trading partners and the country's biggest investor.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SA clinches record bond deal

South Africa has successfully raised \$2 billion in dollar-denominated bonds, Treasury Director General Lesetja Kganyago said on Tuesday night. The amount is the largest ever raised by South Africa and completes funding for the 2010/11 fiscal year, he said. The bond is a 10 year one, maturing 9 March 2020. The coupon is 5.5% - the lowest coupon South Africa has ever negotiated in the US dollar market. This translates into a yield of 197 basis points above the US benchmark of 352 basis points. The interest rate South Africa will pay is 5.59% per annum. The bond has been distributed 59% into the US, 33% to Europe, 4% to Asia and 0.7% to Latin America. The bond was lead managed by Deutsche Bank and Standard Bank and co-led by Nedbank. Kganyago said that what was significant was that of the three banks involved in the deal, only one was foreign.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Confident investors fund SA's borrowing needs

South Africa has covered its foreign borrowing needs for the coming year, scooping up \$2 billion without any fanfare on global markets this week on terms that show investors have confidence in its policies and growth path. A Treasury official told Business Day yesterday that recent economic figures suggested that SA could grow faster than it projected in the budget last month, making further borrowing this year look unlikely. "The market response to this bond ... suggests that the world's capital markets are expressing confidence in SA's future growth path," said Lungisa Fuzile, head of asset and liability management at the Treasury.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Developmental finance is too distant - Busa, Cosatu

Both Business Unity SA (Busa) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said yesterday that the structure of the financing mechanisms at development finance institutions (DFIs) needed to be reconsidered to make it easier for emerging businesses to gain access to loans. The two organisations were particularly concerned that the terms of financing at DFIs should be less stringent than those of private banks. Cosatu said that the institutions should be restructured "to ensure that they promote a developmental agenda rather than operating on the basis of risk assessment, similar to private capitalist banks". MPs and other organisations yesterday took part in the trade and industry portfolio committee's deliberations and public hearings on the industrial policy action plan.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Absa's cellphone banking grows

Absa Bank's Digital Channels yesterday said its cellphone banking customers had increased during the past year by 113% to 1.5-million, while internet banking customers had grown by 11% to 1.1-million.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

SARS seizes couples luxury cars

The South African Revenue Services (SARS) has taken three vehicles worth nearly R17 million belonging to a Durban couple whose taxes were not in order, the Mercury newspaper reported yesterday. On Tuesday, SARS took possession of Sbu and Shawn Mpisane's Rolls-Royce Phantom convertible, valued at about R7 million, and two Lamborghinis valued at about R4.5 million and R5 million, the Mercury said. It is believed that the Mpisane's owed SARS about R50 million and it is not known how much of that has been paid.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

The new StayEasy Pietermaritzburg: ahead of time

Feedback from guests shows StayEasy by Southern Sun is the brand of choice for many travellers seeking contemporary, affordable accommodation in key secondary locations. The StayEasy brand provides a practical solution to the need for quality accommodation without the unwanted extras. From the 15 March 2010 travellers up and down to KwaZulu-Natal will find this at the new StayEasy in Pietermaritzburg. This is due to the hotel being structurally completed and approved more than two weeks prior to the planned opening date, guests can be assured that all the final touches will be in place before the opening.

NEWS REVIEWS

Sun City dimmed by profit eclipse

Sun City, once the flagship development in Sun International's gaming and hotel portfolio, looked a pale shadow of itself in the six months to end-December 2009. The resort, developed as a homeland-based gaming mecca during SA's apartheid years, appeared to come under severe operational strain during the six months to end-December 2009. Sun International's divisional report showed that while Sun City's revenues were down marginally to R583 million, earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) slumped by nearly a quarter to R68 million. On an operating profit basis, Sun City generated a mere R3 million - a hefty 90% down on last year's R32 million. Sun International CEO David Coutts-Trotter confirmed much of the operating profit was wiped out by depreciation and amortisation charges.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Ninety-eight days. This is the number of days that stands between Bafana Bafana and their World Cup opener against Mexico on 11 June. This number also represents the amount of time which Bafana have to improve their performance to a level which will see them able to compete on a level footing come that auspicious day. And if last night's performance against Namibia is anything to go by, Bafana have a long, long 98 days ahead of them. A repeat of last night's showing will have only one possible outcome when South Africa face much stiffer opposition than Namibia in World Cup Group A - defeat. This is an outcome which needs to be avoided at all costs as it will visit humiliation and embarrassment on the host nation, and, in order to avoid it, Carlos Alberto Parreira and his players need to get better in the next 98 days. Much better.

News Reviews

Muir makes eight changes

Lions coach Dick Muir has made eight changes to the starting line-up that lost to the Hurricanes last week for tomorrow's Super 14 match against the Brumbies in Canberra. The most significant change is to the front row, with Ross Geldenhuys dropped from the match 22 and Heinke van der Mewe and Hannes Franklin relegated to the bench. Kevin Buys, Charles Emslie and JC Janse van Rensburg make up the new front row while, at lock, Willem Stoltz returns to partner George Earle, with Franco van der Merwe moving to the bench. Amongst the backs, Burton Francis comes in for the injured Carlos Spencer at flyhalf, Walter Venter replaces the injured Deon van Rensburg at centre, Dusty Noble comes in for Wandile Mjekevu on the wing and Michael Killian takes the place of Earl Rose at fullback.

STAR, Sport; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Ntini stars as Warriors reach final

Makhaya Ntini claimed 2/12 off his four overs as the Warriors beat the Cape Cobras by 10 runs in their Standard Bank Pro20 Series semifinal, second leg at Newlands last night. Chasing the Warriors' 121/6, the Cobras were restricted to 111/6 as the Warriors progressed to the final where they will play either the Lions or Titans.

STAR, Sport

Bafana held

Bafana Bafana were held to 1-1 draw by Namibia in a friendly international at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban last night. Meanwhile, national coach Carlos Alberto Parreira will today name his squad to fly to Brazil next Monday for a month-long World Cup training camp.

STAR, Sport

'Mbazo' back in the game

Bafana Bafana captain Aaron "Mbazo" Mokoena has finally returned to training after a troublesome knee injury that has seen him out of action since 26 January. There have been fears that the knee-ligament damage may be serious enough to put him on the sidelines for much longer, putting a serious dent in his 2010 World Cup hopes. However, the 29-year-old should be available for Portsmouth's FA Cup quarter-final clash with Birmingham City on Saturday. In addition, Pompey may well draft him back into the side given his record in this competition. He scored his first goal for Pompey earlier in the season as he netted the winner against Coventry City in the third round, while his only two other goals in English football, both for Blackburn Royers, also came in the FA Cup.

DAILY SUN, Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.4909	(+0.0861)
Rand - Sterling £	11.2648	(+0.0484)
Rand - Euro €	10.2236	(+0.0266)
JSE Allshare	27683.7	(+311.73)
Gold	1136.5	(+10.00)
Platinum	1580.0	(+18.00)
Brent Crude Oil	79.2	(+1.02)

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	20	(28)
Durban	19	(28)
East London	18	(27)
Johannesburg	14	(26)
Kimberley	15	(31)
Mafikeng	18	(29)
Nelspruit	19	(26)
Pietermaritzburg	15	(28)
Polokwane	16	(28)
Port Elizabeth	17	(29)
Pretoria	16	(28)