

THE FRONT PAGE

In the headlines today: President Jacob Zuma has failed to declare his financial interests, as required by law, within 60 days of becoming the country's president last year. Paramedics are under siege, afraid that a callout could be an ambush, following the weekend rape of an ambulance crew while tending to a child. The US and Britain are threatening to withhold support for a \$3.75 billion World Bank loan for a coal-fired plant in SA, expanding over who should pay for clean energy. Gauteng motorists already frustrated by road construction are in for even more disruptions. And posh homes and luxury cars are a thing of the past for a prominent Pretoria family, who are on the run after the asset forfeiture unit seized R15 million of their property.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: political parties and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) are questioning President Jacob Zuma's motives after it emerged that he had failed to declare his financial interests, as required by law, within 60 days of becoming president; paramedics are under siege, afraid that a callout could be an ambush, following the weekend rape of an ambulance crew while tending to a child; Gauteng motorists already frustrated by road construction are in for even more disruptions; and a victim of convicted sex offender Cezanne Visser and her ex-partner Dirk Prinsloo has committed suicide, nine years after the pair molested her on her 14th birthday.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Fear grips medics

If there's a crisis in Roodepoort's Durban Deep area, so don't expect paramedics to turn up to help. Paramedics are under siege, afraid that a callout could be an ambush, following the weekend rape of an ambulance crew while tending to a child. At station 21, where the two paramedics are based, colleagues were still shaken from the incident. The station now refuses to service Durban Deep, despite assurances from head office that paramedic services to the area will continue. On Friday night, two women paramedics from the Hodgson Street emergency station in Roodepoort responded to a desperate call from a mother who said her two-year-old son had been burnt. The ambulance was driven to a pick-up point along Main Reef Road. While the paramedics were busy, three armed men appeared from the bushes, threatened the two men and then took the two women into the bushes.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Zuma must show the money

Political parties and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) are questioning President Jacob Zuma's motives after it emerged that he had failed to declare his financial interests, as required by law, within 60 days of becoming president. Cosatu General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said yesterday: "Ethically, you can't ask others to disclose and expect not to play by the same rules. We would urge him to disclose as soon as possible." The ANC would not comment. "We have not spoken to the president about it," was all national spokesperson Jackson Mthembu would say. Democratic Alliance (DA) Leader Helen Zille said it was "scandalous" and "yet another indication that Zuma believes himself to be above the law". The presidency said it was not sure whether Zuma had to legally declare his interests and was seeking legal advice.

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

Barbie, Prinsloo victim takes her own life

A victim of convicted sex offender Cezanne Visser and her ex-partner Dirk Prinsloo has committed suicide, nine years after the pair molested her on her 14th birthday. Although details were unclear at the time of going to press, it is believed Janine du Plessis, 23, was found hanging from a tree near the Botswana border. Apparently Du Plessis, who was recently discharged from a drug rehabilitation centre, was visiting Botswana with the father of her child, who is said to be in the care of her mother Marie.

STAR; TALK RADION 702 NEWS @ 06:00

Gauteng motorists face a rough ride

Gauteng motorists already frustrated by road construction are in for even more disruptions. This on top of the havoc already caused by ongoing construction of Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system which has seen roads ripped up, traffic lights disconnected and detours enforced along its routes. Major changes will be made to the William Nicol Interchange on the N1 over the next month to allow for its conversion from a diamond-type interchange to a single-point-system.

STAR

POLITICAL NEWS

DA to meet with Nersa

The Democratic Alliance (DA) would meet the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) on Friday over the approved Eskom tariff hikes, the party said yesterday. "The meeting is over what appears to be significant problems in the adjudication of Eskom's tariff application. After reviewing the nature of the proposals put forward by the regulator in detail, and consulting with industry insiders, we believe that three major flaws exist," said the DA's David Ross. He said that the issues suggested that the entire tariff hike might be flawed in overstating Eskom's expenses in order to legitimise a larger tariff hike. "In its application, Eskom's stated primary energy costs include a once-off portion of some R7.5 billion to rebuild stockpiles. Nersa has included this as a basis to escalate the allowances for increases in the tariff."

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Prove corruption claims, ANC tells Vavi

The African National Congress (ANC) has challenged the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Secretary-General Zwelinzima Vavi to prove his allegations of corruption in the party. Party spokesperson Jackson Mthembu said at the weekend: "Comrade Vavi speaks with conviction that 'there is a tiny minority in the ANC leadership and membership which is corrupt and uses the ANC to enrich themselves'. As a leader of the alliance, we would have expected him to have brought such a matter to the ANC leadership or even presented the lists of such corrupt individuals. Together, we would have walked and marched to the nearest police station to ensure such individuals are arrested."

STAR

Code requires president, wives to declare interests

The Executive Members' Code of Ethics obliges the president, his wife, permanent companion and dependent children to declare shares and other financial interests, "to the extent they are aware of these", in companies and corporate entities.

STAR

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Fears SA becoming a drugs gateway

South Africa is in danger of becoming a major hub for drug trafficking, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said on Thursday. The office's Jonathan Lucas said at the release of the International Narcotics Control Board's annual report: "West African syndicates had recently become major drug traffickers after Central American cartels began using them due to difficulty with their traditional routes. "Increased surveillance on traditional routes had made them become unprofitable." He said if these new routes through West Africa were successfully dealt with by the authorities, Central American cartels would again look for other alternatives. "When they are diverted, will they come to South Africa? Maybe." There was also a danger the 2010 World Cup would worsen drug trafficking.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; SAFM NEWS @ 08:00

Four-hour-long indaba on Western Cape courts

While millions of taxpayers' money has been invested in Equality Courts, a mere 67 cases have been lodged at the 32 courts in the Western Cape over the last year. The low figures have prompted the Western Cape Justice Department to hold a four-hour-long indaba on why these courts have not yet reached their full potential and how to improve their functions. A report on the indaba is to be compiled and submitted to the director-general the director-general of the national Justice Department.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Free computers donated to KZN school

KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner Mmanmonnye Ngobeni donated 100 computers to disadvantaged schools in the areas on the outskirts of Umlazi on Friday. The unveiling of the computer labs at five schools in Ngonyameni was attended by the KZN legislature's deputy speaker, Mtholephi Mthimkhulu and other officials. The initiative was undertaken to bring down violence and crime in the province.

MERCURY

Internet helped Westville prisoners escape

A map of the Westville prison downloaded from the internet, a cellphone and construction tools were used to help nine prisoners escape from the prison on 21 February. The awaiting trial prisoners, were in the Medium A section of the prison when they escaped by cutting through steel doors and window bars and the grille gates and climbed down a rope made from sheets. One of the prisoners, Nhlanhla Lucky Mhlongo was killed by police during a shoot-out on Saturday and Simon Edward Barque, believed to be the brains behind the escape, was rearrested at a relative's home in Umlazi. Barque has been sentenced to three years in prison and has been moved to the Kokstad Maximum Security prison.

MERCURY

Optimism over SA's safety, security

South Africa's R1.3 billion security plan for the World Cup has been given the thumbs up by top policemen from England and Interpol who will be in the country in numbers never seen before. After a two-day conference at FIFA headquarters in Zurich on Friday, where security chiefs from 29 of the qualifying countries heard South Africa's safety plans, the head of football matters for England's Association of Chief Police Officers, Andy Holt, and Interpol's Secretary-General, Ronald Noble, said they were "entirely confident" the World Cup would be safe and secure.

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Creating jobs is critical - Nene

Creating more jobs was South Africa's most critical challenge, Deputy Minister of Finance Nhlanhla Nene said on Friday. "There are far too many South Africans who do not work, with the bulk of the gains in national income inevitably going to those who are employed," he said. Without higher and more inclusive growth, South Africa was not likely to address the high levels of poverty that persisted 16 years into democracy, he said. Nene said that South Africa needed a more labour-absorbing growth path. "Making the economy more labour-absorptive will require raising productivity, boosting exports and promoting greater levels of savings and investment.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

NEWS BRIEF

Crony capitalists on JZ's coat-tails

Key arms deal lobbyist and apartheid-era sanctions buster Tony Georgiadis is part President Jacob Zuma's 213-person-strong business delegation in the United Kingdom. The delegation includes a number of key Zuma backers (and his son, Duduzani), who attended business meetings with representatives of the British private sector this week. Zuma's spokesperson, Vincent Magwenya, did not respond to specific questions about the appropriateness of inviting Georgiadis. Georgiadis, representing his family shipping company, Alandis, gained prominence in South Africa when his wife Elita's affair with former president FW de Klerk led to their divorce. But Georgiadis's links with South Africa go much deeper than that. Alandis was one of the main shippers of crude oil to apartheid South Africa, breaching international sanctions.

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Metrorail 'more than ready' for World Cup

Rail passenger company Metrorail says it is more than ready to live up to its slogan, "Nomakanjani (No matter what), we'll take you there" during the upcoming 2010 World Cup. Metrorail has been experiencing a number of delays in its operations along the Johannesburg and Vereeniging corridor which were, according to the company, sparked by damaged infrastructure as a result of violent service delivery protests at the Houtheuvel train station as well as electrical power supply problems in the New Canada vicinity last week. While acknowledging on Thursday that they were experiencing operational problems in the corridor in question, Metrorail spokesperson Sibusiso Ngomane said football fans planning to attend the World Cup matches at various host cities in Gauteng need not panic as they have a "solid" operational plan in place.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

BP against Transnet's hike

BP has said that an increase of 51.3% in Transnet's petroleum pipeline tariffs is "unwarranted" and will damage inland competition. BP's objection to the requested increase is reminiscent of last year's argument between the two firms - also over tariff hikes. The National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) last year rejected Transnet's application for an average 74.72% increase and instead reduced its tariffs by 10.38% in the 2009/10 financial year. Nersa granted the firm a 4.43% hike in the 2008/09 financial year. Transnet said last week that Nersa's recent decision would result in tariff hikes when its new assets were commissioned. The company's most prominent project is the R12.7 billion multi-product petroleum pipeline from Durban to Johannesburg, which it says will be completed and operational by December 2011. In his presentation to Nersa's public hearings last week, BP Business Manager Russel Glass said that increase would be detrimental to competition and the inland market.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Motor sector calls for local content rules

Motor industry interests in South Africa called for a rand peg and rules requiring a greater proportion of local content in cars, along the lines of Thailand, at a hearing on the industrial policy action plan at Parliament on Friday. Tight content rules would ensure local beneficiation and protect manufacturing jobs. Steward Jennings, the President of the National Association of Automotive Component and Allied Manufacturers, made an impassioned plea for a stable and competitive currency, which he argued should be pegged to the dollar or a "basket of currencies" to protect jobs, particularly in manufacturing industries.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Jordaan: WC will help forge united SA

The World Cup would do even more to forge a united South Africa than Nelson Mandela's success in pulling a divided country together through the 1995 world rugby tournament, Danny Jordaan, CEO of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), said on Thursday. He also said that FIFA would introduce special charter flights and direct ticket sales in response to African anger at the difficulty of attending the continent's first football World Cup. "It is always important to further strengthen social cohesion in our country, to strengthen nation building, and I think that in this regard the impact is going to be massive; much more than the 1995 (Rugby) World Cup," he said.

PRETORIA NEWS

Jordaan hits out at SA's critics

Local Organising Committee (LOC) CEO Danny Jordaan hit out at critics of South Africa's preparations for this year's World Cup finals as he promised the most financially successful tournament in the event's history. Reports in the SA press suggested that a concerned FIFA is sending in 40 advisors to help bolster Jordaan's team in the run-up to the World Cup, which starts in fewer than 100 days' time. However, a confident Jordaan said on Thursday, "There are not 40 advisors at FIFA with more experience than me. This is my fifth World Cup." He added, "Forty advisors is too many. Jesus Christ only had 12 disciples. I don't have a single foreign advisor working for me. You must understand the task and have the ability to lead." Jordaan, speaking at Chelsea Football Club, said this year's World Cup will be delivered on budget and be the most financially successful yet."

SUPERSPORT.COM, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Taxi operators told to get affairs in order

Deputy Transport Minister Jeremy Cronin has read the Riot Act to taxi operators. He said they had six months to upgrade any vehicles not part of the recapitalisation programme. If they do not comply, the minibuses will be taken off the road. Cronin said although there were many operators who complied with the programme, there were some discrepancies. Thousands of the new vehicles have been found to not meet the standards set out by officials.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 12:00

SARS cracking the whip on defrauders

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) says it has no mercy for people who have defrauded the tax collection system and has vowed to crack down on tax invaders and defrauders. In the past week alone it has seized properties worth millions of rands from a Gauteng family. The National Prosecution Authority says since beginning to the year, it's been freezing assets of people alleged to be fleeing SARS. Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan promised to tighten the screws on the culprits. So far the minister and SARS have started their guns cracking down on business owners across the country. Just last weekend, it seized properties in Pretoria West worth R15 million from a family they are accuse of falsifying vat refunds totalling more than R35 million.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Sandown will host Bafana

The contract is not yet signed, but "in principle" it's official - Sandown High School has agreed to host South Africa's National Team as its training venue for the World Cup. The school is listed on the FIFA website, the SA Football Association (Safa) has visited its premises, and Bafana Bafana coach Carlos Parreira has said he is satisfied with what he inspected.

STAR

HEALTH NEWS

Health Department being sued for R2bn

All government health departments are being sued for a record R2 billion, by patients who claim they have suffered gross medical malpractice at state hospitals. Gauteng Health MEC Dorothy Mahlangu says government is lucky this amount is not more. Amongst the patients suffering the brunt of lengthy delays in finalising these cases are children allegedly accidentally infected with HIV in state hospitals. Newly-appointed Mahlangu admits infection control in state hospitals leaves a lot to be desired. The Health Department in Gauteng have law suites totalling R530 million to defend, while in KwaZulu-Natal claims have reached the R300 million mark.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

'Hospital let my baby fall to its death'

When Lorraine Ratshefola went into labour on 26 February, she and her husband Ernest expected to return home with their baby boy. Instead the couple, from Kagiso, west of Johannesburg, are pursuing legal action against the LenMed Clinic in Lenasia over the death of their baby. Lorraine's baby boy fell onto a hospital floor after he was born. The hospital, however, claims the baby was stillborn.

STAR

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Confusion over Fan Fest location

The official FIFA Fan Fest will not necessarily be at the Union Buildings, as a decision to hold it there has not been made yet. The incorrect information was reported on after the Tshwane Metro Council uploaded a speech that was not delivered by Mayor Dr Gwen Ramokgopa on to its website. Two speeches were written for Ramokgopa: one in which she thanked the Presidency and the Department of Public Works for allowing the council to use the Union Buildings; and one without the lines. The wrong speech was uploaded on to the website as the speech delivered at a function last week. Spokespeople for the mayor and the Department of Public Works, which manages government facilities, had failed to respond to repeated requests for the information on the matter by Thursday.

PRETORIA NEWS

Ramokgopa & Tshwane to get help from govt.

Co-operative Governance Minister Sicele Shiceka said on Thursday the Tshwane Metro Council was being run left a lot to be desired, and he wants the situation turned around. The municipality has been identified as one of the most vulnerable in Gauteng. Residents there have been experiencing problems with the city's billing system. Last year, Mayor Gwen Ramokgopa's council admitted it was having serious cash-flow problems. The municipality has also come under fire following at least two strikes by refuse collectors in recent months. Shiceka said there was a plan to get the municipality back on track.

EWN.CO.ZA

Msunduzi strike over

Residents and businesses in the Msunduzi Municipality can look forward to their streets being cleaned after a two-week strike by Msunduzi Municipality workers has ended. Protesters from the electricity, waste management, public safety and water divisions took to the streets on 24 February over the non-payment of overtime for January and February. Workers also called the dissolution of the executive committee (Exco) it was responsible for the municipality's financial crisis. The Deputy Chairperson of the Pietermaritzburg branch of the SA Municipal Workers' Union, Sakhile Ngcobo confirmed that the strike has been called off temporarily in sympathy with residents and businesses. He said they are giving Co-operative Governance MEC Nomusa Dube until next week Tuesday to address their grievances.

WITNESS

Five years of landfill space left in the WC

The Western Cape has an estimated five years of landfill space left, while waste generation in the City of Cape Town grows an average of seven percent a year. This is a warning from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. Addressing delegates at the Waste Minimisation Summit last week, MEC Anton Bredell said that the province's landscape had to be considered to best understand how the limited resources could be used to effectively manage waste.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

New committee for name changes in the WC

The Western Cape is establishing a committee to deal with the process of changing place names in the province. Cultural Affairs and Sport MEC Sakkie Jenner said his department would launch the provincial geographical names committee in the next month. The committee's role would be to consult the public, investigate and make proposals to an equivalent national body, the SA Geographical Names Council.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

KZN premier opposes N2 toll road

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize has reiterated his opposition to the proposed N2 Wild Coast toll road, saying that more toll roads in Durban will cause further financial hardship for commuters and slow down economic growth. Mkhize was reacting to the news that the proposed N2 toll had been given another green light after an environmental impact assessment. The Democratic Alliance also voiced its alarm about the stance of the Sanral road agency in pursuing the plan. Sanral Chief Nazir Alli said he is confident that a solution can be found to allay concerns.

MERCURY

A new multi-million rand park to be unveiled

The City of Cape Town is set to unveil a multi-million rand park in the next few months with officials saying the city would become a great inner-city park similar to those in cities around the world. The park has been silently taking shape while fanfare surrounds the stadium. The city says it hopes to have the development completed in time for World Biodiversity Day on 22 May.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Free State as R21.4 billion budget

The Free State has a budget of R21.4 billion for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Of that, 76% would be allocated from the national government, finance MEC Seiso Mohai said on Friday. 21% of the provincial budget would come from national conditional grants, while the province would have to get the other 3% through collecting its own taxes and fees. Referring to the provincial budget for the next three years, which would increase to R24.1 billion in 2013, Mohai said the money should be handled carefully.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

New traffic legislation to protect cyclists

The Western Cape Government is looking at pushing through legislation that would make it illegal for motorists to pass within 1.5m of cyclists. The proposed legislation is being spearheaded by Transport MEC Robin Carlisle, in the wake of the recent accidents involving cyclists in the lead up to the Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour. Carlisle said that his department's legal advisers are to investigate amendments to road traffic legislation.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

2010 clock ticks in Nelspruit

A 2010 FNB Countdown Clock was unveiled at the Grove Shopping Centre in Nelspruit on Wednesday, to remind residents that the FIFA World Cup, which kicks off on 11 June, is drawing nearer. Mpumalanga's MEC for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Vusi Shongwe, thanked FNB for providing the clock as a token of celebrating the 2010 World Cup. "Our hosting of the 2010 World Cup has become visible in all areas in the province and I want to ask all our people to ensure that the province is on the map by making successful preparations for the event," he said. Shongwe ensured the delegates present that Mpumalanga's preparations were going according to plan and that the province would play its part in hosting a successful event. Mayor Khosi Mkhonto said the Local Organising Committee (LOC) had assured them that everything would be 100% ready and that there was no need to panic because of the pitch that still needs to be improved at Mbombela Stadium.

SA2010.GOV.ZA

CPT Tourism introduces new pricing code

Cape Town Tourism has introduced a pricing code to curb over-pricing within the industry. The organisation embarked on the campaign amid concerns that local businesses may excessively hike their tariffs prior to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The aim of the initiative is to banish perceptions that South Africa will be too expensive for travellers before and during the tournament. The code includes a contract where businesses agree to adhere to a particular pricing spectrum during peak and off-peak seasons.

HIGHVELD STEREO NEWS @ 11:00

Who will pay R10m bill for delays constructing Gautrain?

Uncertainty prevails as to who will settle a claim of more than R10 billion for delays and disruption to Gautrain buildings operations. Deputy Transport Minister Jeremy Cronin has confirmed the claim following the remarks by Murray & Roberts Holdings CEO, Brian Bruce. If the claim succeeds, the province's taxpayers will have to pay the bill. The Gauteng government has already said it will not ask treasury for extra money Mbombela needs to finish Santon to OR Tambo Airport link in time for the Soccer World Cup. Bruce accuses Gauteng government of handing over the building sites late and in different sequences and it affected the contractors planning and caused additional expenses.

SAFM NEWS @ 06:00; YFM NEWS @ 06:00

EDUCATION NEWS

Parent-children learning boosted in CPT

A new initiative has been launched to help parents to positively stimulate their children outside the classroom. The "Need to Read" project gives parents the necessary tools to boost their children's grades and their self esteem. The workshops are held in Manenberg and allows parents to come together to learn how they can help their children improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Workshop leader Roland Abrahams said if children were positively driven, they would succeed in school.

EWN.CO.ZA

Sasco marches to parliament

A few hundred students marched to parliament, in Cape Town, in support of the national demand by the student organisation Sasco for free education. Students from various institutions of higher learning in the province have supported the call and handed over a memorandum of grievances at parliament. A strong contingent of police kept watch on the march. Meanwhile scores of student from a number of institutions of higher learning in KwaZulu Natal gathered at Durban University of Technology in support of the call for Sasco. What Sasco, is looking for as a short term goal is a review of the national student financial aid scheme. Students want the interest rate scraped off the money government loans to them. Government loans money to students at a certain interest rate. Activities continued as usual for those who do not want to take part in the protest.

SAFM NEWS @ 13:00; ENEW DAY @ 13:00

Grant listens to teachers' problems

Western Cape Education MEC Donald Grant has been told teachers are extremely overworked and schools lack resources needed to do their work properly. Grant took part in a discussion with teachers from various Atlantic Seaboard Schools last week. Grant said that the department is looking into innovations to tackle issues.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Financial aid scheme for needy students in a mess

Board members of the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) should step down and a turnaround team should be brought into beef up the administration, a special report on the multibillion programme has recommended. The scheme provides funding for needy students to attend college and university. Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande ordered a review, led by Professor Marcus Balintulo. A copy of the review panel's report is in the The Star's possession. Already before the cabinet, the report is due to be officially released during the next two weeks. It states that the board has failed to meet its fiduciary responsibilities, and that some board members had a poor understanding of the policies and legislation governing the scheme, while others "openly disagreed with government education policy".

STAR

Former deputy president to help improve education

Government has often admitted that the country's education system faces many challenges, especially given the declining matric pass rate. So, the county's former deputy-president has decided to join the fray, helping the African National Congress government she quit from by training principals to improve the quality of education in public schools. Some school principals say they have learned more from this initiative than from government's policy guidelines. Despite her bitter resignation in protest against Thabo Mbeki being forced to quit, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, now a member of Congress of the People (COPE), says she is more than willing to help the current administration improve the education system.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Minister to oppose local porn channel

Minister of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities Nolutshando Mayende-Sibiya said on Thursday she would fight the launch of a DStv pornography channel. Multichoice recently said it had been inundated with requests from viewers for adult content on its DStv platform. Mayende-Sibiya is currently in New York, leading a South African delegation to the United Nations on the 15-year global review of the Beijing Declaration. That declaration focuses on women and the media. The minister said the rights of children and women must be the primary consideration in the decision to launch a pornography channel. "We have to try by all means to ensure that we reduce exposure for children to pornographic material," she said.

EWN.CO.ZA; SAFM NEWS @ 08:00

Govt can't provide more loans to Eskom

The government cautioned at the weekend that it did not have money to provide further loans to Eskom, and said that there was a limit to the total guarantees it could issue. The comments from the Department of Public Enterprises come amid increasing pressure to fund the utility's R485 billion capacity expansion. Major developed nations are threatening to withhold support for a \$3.75 billion (R28 billion) World Bank loan, the bulk of which is earmarked for the Medupi coal-fired power plant. Their stance has highlighted deep cracks between industrialised and developing countries over the issue of tackling climate change. A key unresolved issue is who foot the bill for poorer nations to transform into environmentally sustainable economies. Public Enterprises spokesperson Ayanda Shezi said that funding and security of electricity supply were receiving "urgent attention" by the government after last month's decision by the energy regulator to grant lower tariff hikes than Eskom had proposed for the next three years.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Government plans to legalise converted taxis

The government's plan to legalise the use of Quantum panel vans converted into minibus taxis with safety retrofits has Toyota support, the vehicle manufacturer said on Saturday. Toyota South Africa Motors said it supported a programme, announced by Deputy Minister of Transport Jeremy Cronin, to retrofit illegally converted Quantum panel vans to comply with the safety and security requirements of the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme.

BUSINESS TIMES

Sexwale vs Sisulu: New front in the succession war

Pressure is mounting in the African National Congress for President Jacob Zuma to step down as ANC leader once his term ends in 2012 and make way for new leadership. One government official told the Mail & Guardian that planning is already under way in the ruling party and the government for the post-2012 scenario and that Zuma is not expected to return as ANC leader. "It's almost certain that he won't make it to a second term. He's damaged goods - so we have to look beyond him." The M&G understands that the lobby group working to install Deputy Police Minister Fikile Mbalula as the next ANC secretary general sees Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe as the party's next president, with Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale as his deputy and Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu as chairperson. In addition to Sexwale, Sisulu and ANC chairperson Baleka Mbete are seen as contenders for the post.

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Xingwana: But is it art?

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Lulu Xingwana, told the Mail & Guardian on Thursday that she was not homophobic, after reports of her storming out of an women's art exhibition, with some works depicting lesbians, caused an outcry. "Contrary to media reports, I was not even aware as to whether the 'bodies' in the images were of men or women or both for that matter. My reaction was guided by the view that these 'artworks' were not suitable for a family audience. I noticed that there were children as young as three-years-old in the room," Xingwana said in response to questions from the M&G, sticking to her previous stance that the works are immoral.

MAIL & GUARDIAN

The ANC is growing wary of Cosatu

The African National Congress (ANC) has publically attacked the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), saying it should not have gone on the warpath publically over the ruling party's treatment of its Secretary General Gwede Mantashe. It said it was astonished and dismayed Cosatu claimed some formations within the party were mobilising to have a vote of no confidence in its leadership at the ANC's national general council in September. Cosatu on Thursday said it was worried such a move could tear the party apart. The ANC's Jackson Mthembu said Cosatu was wrong to raise the issue in public and not in a private alliance meeting. He said the party was furious Cosatu was making claims about a planned attack on Mantashe. Mthembu said the ANC dismissed Cosatu's claim with contempt.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 13:00; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 13:00

Mantashe- There is no conflict between ANC and Cosatu

African National Congress (ANC) Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe has played down reports that there is once again tension within the tripartite alliance. He says the ANC will engage trade union federation the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) on the concerns they have raised, with the view of finding solutions to them. The war of words between the ANC and Cosatu erupted on Thursday when the unions Secretary-General Zwelinzima Vavi said there was a faction within the ANC which plans to oust Mantashe and President Jacob Zuma before the end of their term in office. ANC spokesperson Jackson Mthembu responded by accusing Cosatu of veering towards opposition politics and of being divisive. On Saturday, the public mudslinging continued with Vavi saying the union will not serve as a lapdog for the ANC while Mthembu retaliated by accusing Cosatu of grandstanding.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, one of the most damaging provisions contained in the new Companies Act is the removal of the requirement for nonpublic companies to be audited, warns an audit expert. The new Companies Act removes the requirement for nonpublic companies to be audited in an attempt to reduce the regulatory burden on these companies. A scheme to train retrenched workers with new skills was launched by Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana on Friday. The Training of the Unemployed Project had so far registered 774 trainees who were receiving tuition in fields such as plumbing, boiler-making, welding, electrical and mechanical skills. Sappi said on Friday that the earthquake in Chile would add pressure on the group and the European paper industry to raise prices.

NEWS REVIEWS

Telkom case delayed again

The pre-hearing date for the Competition Tribunal case against Telkom has still not been set and is likely to face another delay. The reason for this delay, according to the Competition Tribunal, is that Telkom needs to file its response to the complaint before a date can be set for the hearing. It had until 28 February to file the necessary papers, but failed to do so. "When a complaint is filed against you, you have 20 business days to file a response, but Telkom negotiated with the Competition Commission and got an extension until 28 February and now they're probably going to file for another extension," says Lerato Motaung, registrar of the Competition Tribunal. The long-standing competition investigation began in 2008, when Telkom allegedly refused to lease access facilities to VANS directly and charged them more than its own customers.

ITWEB.CO.ZA

Audit rule removal 'a blemish on new act'

One of the most damaging provisions contained in the new Companies Act is the removal of the requirement for nonpublic companies to be audited, warns an audit expert. The new Companies Act removes the requirement for nonpublic companies to be audited in an attempt to reduce the regulatory burden on these companies. Ashley Vandiar, Project Director of auditing at the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, said last week that the new legislation did not necessarily achieve the opposite. Vandiar said that the widely held view of an audit as "an expensive statutory evil that must be performed every year in order to comply with the Companies Act" was largely to blame for the relevant Companies Act flaw. "It is this negative and uninformed notion that leads to one of the most damaging provisions in the new Companies Act".

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets; BUSINESS DAY (National)

Factory recovery expected to boost confidence

A leading survey today will clarify the extent to which business confidence has picked up this year, while data on Thursday may deliver more good news on factory output. The business confidence index (BCI) produced by the Bureau for Economic Research each quarter is likely to have surged from its previous weak level of 28 in the fourth quarter of last year. Deteriorating confidence in both manufacturing and construction kept the index from rising more strongly late last year. Now industry surveys show factory output rebounding more strongly than expected, while other sectors also gain momentum.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

State to retrain retrenched workers

A scheme to train retrenched workers with new skills was launched by Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana on Friday. The Training of the Unemployed Project had so far registered 774 trainees who were receiving tuition in fields such as plumbing, boiler-making, welding, electrical and mechanical skills, Mdladlana said. "With over 900 000 people having lost their jobs due to the recession, it is incumbent on us to find creative means of mitigating the impact of the recession on workers," he said. Government entities have contributed almost R50 million to train the candidates, who are paid monthly stipends of R2 100. The project is due to be completed on 31 July next year.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National)

Cape liquor sellers battle for licences

The provincial government's near-refusal to issue licences to currently issue licences to illegal operators in the Western Cape has resulted in the bizarre situation where the V&A Waterfront has more licensed premises than all of the townships in the Western Cape. The fact that the townships are mainly zoned for residential use to justify what looks like a continuation of the apartheid regime under which blacks were prohibited from selling liquor. Industry sources say that the situation is even more bizarre given the national government's desire to encourage small business development. South African Breweries (SAB), which is encouraging the licensing process with its Zenzele black empowerment scheme, estimates almost 500 of the unlicensed outlets in the province could meet the strict licensing requirements.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Local is lucrative and trendy - marketing gurus

Buying local is a worldwide trend, and companies operating in South Africa may need to change their strategy and their brand image if they want to attract consumers, warns marketing and communications company McCann Erickson. Starbucks and Hellman's were two companies that had embraced this trend and were reaping the benefits, said Rob van Rooyen, McCann Erickson's Strategic Planning Director. "The trend started globally with consumers supporting local farmers and their produce, and has now spread to requiring businesses to be more personal and relevant to communities," he said last week.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SABC Bafana song contest

The SABC, official broadcaster of the 2010 World Cup, invites fellow South Africans to write a song in support of Bafana Bafana that will inspire the team to great heights and become the anthem of a nation on the brink of greatness. All SABC platforms, both radio and television, have committed to supporting this initiative, which has opened for entries and closes at 00:00 on 2 April 2010. Entries may be in any official language and will be evaluated by a panel of music compilers and music managers from different SABC radio stations and TV channels, to narrow down the entries to five finalists. For more information, click on the following link:

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/147/45382.html>
BIZCOMMUNITY.COM

Dismay over board's O'Neil in SABC post

The decision to appoint SABC board member Claire O'Neil to oversee the broadcaster's troubled sales and marketing division has been met with opposition from experts in the media sector and unions. News of O'Neil's pending appointment was leaked a few days before the official announcement on Friday, sparking debate among the Save our SABC Coalition and the board about the ethical implications of appointing a board member to the post. O'Neil - former SABC GM of sales between 2001 to 2005 - is to oversee the troubled sales and marketing division while the investigation against suspended head Gab Mampone is completed. O'Neil is expected to hold the position for several months.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Maize in SA drops

Maize in South Africa dropped as the rand strengthened, cutting the cost of imports for local millers. White maize for July deliver, the most active contract on the South African Futures Exchange, declined by R24, or 2.1%, to close at R1 132 a ton. The contract dropped 4.5% last week. Yellow maize for July delivery decreased by R17, or 1.4%, to R1 208 a ton, for a weekly slide of 3.1%. Wheat for Mat rose R12, or 0.6%, to R2 100 a ton.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, government wants to rope in private retirement funds and the Public Investment Corporation to help finance development projects, as well as dust the cobwebs off a plan formulated at the 2003 Growth Summit; the Institute of Retirement Funds (IRF) has welcomed the government's exploration of investing some of the R1.5 trillion of public and private retirement funds in development projects, including the possibility of issuing a development bond; and the Free State has a budget of R21.4 billion for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. In business, financial services group Sanlam has entered into an international joint venture to form a new Isle of Man-based European property investment advisory and management company.

NEWS REVIEWS

Rand: Government looks at carry trade

South Africa is looking at the impact of the carry trade on its rand currency and is weighing its options to curb currency volatility, the country's finance minister said on Thursday. Pravin Gordhan ruled out the adoption of capital controls but noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seems to be shifting its thinking on restrictions on the movement of capital. "We have made a commitment that we will lean against the wind... we want less volatility," Pravin Gordhan told a business presentation at Bloomberg. "We are... looking at the impact of the carry trade more carefully and the options we have to assist the currency to have less volatility," he said, adding that the government was assisting the central bank to build up reserves to have a buffer during bouts of sharp currency swings.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

'Pension money for development'

Government wants to rope in private retirement funds and the Public Investment Corporation to help finance development projects, as well as dust the cobwebs off a plan formulated at the 2003 Growth Summit. In terms of this plan, 5% of the money that private retirement funds invest should go to development activities - but this has not been implemented to date. This a plan that Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Economic Development, tabled in parliament on Thursday as part of his department's strategic plan for the next three years. Patel said private retirement funds and the Public Investment Corporation could become involved through, for instance, a development bond. Patel's strategic plan also indicates that his department would be largely responsible for the development of all economic policy.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Life companies can honour payments

Life companies remain well positioned to honour benefit payments due to clients, the Association for Savings and Investment SA (Asisa) said on Thursday. In a statement it said that South Africans bought life insurance products worth R62 billion in new premiums last year, only five percent less than was spent on new recurring and single premiums in 2008 when R65.5 billion was received. Reporting back on the 2009 sales statistics for the SA long-term insurance industry, Peter Dempsey, Deputy CEO of Asisa, said the uncertainty caused by the global financial crisis and the resulting economic woes had slowed consumer uptake of life products, particular in the single premium space, in the second half of 2008 and during the first half of 2009.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK ; BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Patel's Ministry in control of key institutions

The Economic Development Ministry will take over responsibility for a host of institutions and regulatory bodies to ensure they are aligned with the state's vision for growth, according to Minister Ebrahim Patel's strategic plan tabled in Parliament on Thursday. The much-awaited plan sets out a programme of action for Patel's new department, which was created when President Jacob Zuma announced his Cabinet 10 months ago. After considerable speculation about Patel's mandate, the plan states that his department will "draft economic planning proposals that promote the coherence and alignment of the state's and state entities' economic plans and foster South Africa's growth path and need for substantial job creation".

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA

Patel's pension plan 'workable'

Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel's idea of using private retirement funds to help finance development projects is not necessarily a bad one, economist Mike Schussler said on Friday. This followed media reports that Patel was exploring ways of investing private retirement funds in development projects by possibly issuing development bonds. "It's not necessarily a bad idea but you need to be careful that there is a positive return on the money," Schussler said. "In other words the development bond would have to pay more than inflation." Economist Dawie Roodt, however, thought Patel's idea was "terrible". He asked, "Who can guarantee a positive return on the money?" Roodt said while he was not against social investment, the correct vehicle had to be used.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Patel takes aim at retirement funds

Trustees of retirement funds, both public and private, should be given greater powers to ensure the invested funds were more balanced and did not "chase bull runs", Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel said at the weekend. Leveraging the private and public pension fund industries to promote investment in development projects was a "work in progress", but the idea was based on the Singapore example where a proportion of the contributions by workers to retirement went into state development projects, Patel said after briefing MPs serving on the economic development portfolio committee. This follows the release last Thursday of his department's strategic plan for the medium term, which proposed leveraging 5% of pension funds for this purpose.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Pensions institute warns on prescribed assets

The Institute of Retirement Funds (IRF) has welcomed the government's exploration of investing some of the R1.5 trillion of public and private retirement funds in development projects, including the possibility of issuing a development bond. The use of retirement funds for development is one objective of the Department of Economic Development's strategic plan tabled in Parliament last week. IRF President Shantha Padayachee said the government had still to clarify its thinking on the issue and the recent announcement of draft changes to the Pension Fund Act's regulation 28, which defined the prudential limits of pension fund investments, "arguably" made it the time to do this.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Bank to keep inflation targeting

The Reserve Bank's mandate of targeting low inflation will stay, although that also involves taking growth and employment into account, Deputy Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene said on Friday. Nene reiterated the position of Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, who is under pressure from alliance partners to scrap the policy. Nene credited inflation targeting for the past decade's economic gains. "this policy will remain in place, although we will establish and maintain an open dialogue on this policy stance with our social partners," he said in Soweto.

BUSINESS DAY (National) ; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Foreigners buy R737 million in bonds

Foreigners were net buyers of R737.84 million of bonds including repo transactions on Thursday, after net purchases of R2.96 billion of local bonds on Wednesday, market statistics show. Nominal cumulative volume was R23.6 billion on Thursday from R41.10 billion on Wednesday. Foreigners were net buyers of R737.38 million of bonds excluding repo transactions on Thursday, after net purchases of R3.02 billion of local bonds on Wednesday.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Manchester United's 1-0 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, which propelled them to the top of the English Premiership, is an example of why the Red Devils have enjoyed so much success in the English Premier League since its creation. Playing without their best player and top goal scorer in Wayne Rooney and on the road in a tough environment, United did just enough to come away with a crucial win. This was an example of an ugly win, a win achieved while not playing good football and with the odds stacked against such a result. With Rooney out, the odds were against United winning but they somehow managed to get the three points, and in turn, put pressure on Chelsea to win their next match in order to keep pace. And with a few more wins like this, it is not unlikely that the Red Devils could be the team lifting the Premiership title in May.

News Reviews

Wins for Cheetahs, Stormers as Bulls rest

The Stormers and Cheetahs did South Africa proud by recording victories in the Super 14 this weekend, while the Sharks and Lions both fell to their fourth defeats in as many matches. The Stormers climbed to third in the standings after defeating the Highlanders 33-0 in Cape Town to register their third win. The Cheetahs, meanwhile, pulled off a shock 28-12 win over the previously undefeated Hurricanes. The touring Lions and Sharks both lost, going down 24-13 and 25-21 to the Brumbies and Waratahs respectively. The undefeated Bulls had the weekend off.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day

United go top thanks to Scholes winner

Paul Scholes scored his 100th Premier League goal as Manchester United returned to the top of the English Premiership following a 1-0 win against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

SA beat Pakistan at World Cup

The South African hockey team claimed their first victory at the World Cup in New Delhi when they beat Pakistan 4-3 on Saturday. The win, which follows three consecutive defeats for South Africa, left them with three points from four matches.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Vasco da Gama secure promotion to PSL

Vasco da Gama beat Black Leopards 2-1 in the second leg of their promotion playoff in Cape Town yesterday to secure automatic promotion to the Premier Soccer League. The first leg ended 1-1 in Thohoyandou a fortnight ago. The Cape side replace Jomo Cosmos in the top flight after they were relegated following a 1-0 defeat to Moroka Swallows on Saturday, which ensured they finished bottom of the Absa Premiership table.

STAR, Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.4305	(-0.0034)
Rand - Sterling £	11.1725	(+0.0164)
Rand - Euro €	10.0966	(+0.0072)
JSE Allshare	27904.6	(+130.55)
Gold	\$1135.0	(-1.50)
Platinum	\$1578.0	(-1.00)
Brent Crude Oil	80.4	(+1.90)

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	(31)
Cape Town	24	(32)
Durban	20	(30)
East London	20	(30)
Johannesburg	13	(27)
Kimberley	16	(33)
Mafikeng	16	(29)
Nelspruit	15	(28)
Pietermaritzburg	17	(32)
Polokwane	14	(28)
Port Elizabeth	21	(32)
Pretoria	15	(29)