

THE FRONT PAGE

In the headlines today: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela attended the opening of parliament with her former husband last month and held hands with his wife, but behind the scenes she calls former President Nelson Mandela a "sell-out" and says "the name Mandela is an albatross around the necks of my family". Hip-Hop star Molemo Maarohanye, popularly known as Jub Jub, was apparently not only drunk but also high on drugs when he was involved in an accident in which four teenagers lost their lives. Forcing the rand to weaken would be a "very short-sighted" move for SA to make, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, MD of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said yesterday. Tshwane Executive Mayor Dr Gwen Ramokgopa believes that the metro council has made great strides over the past five years.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: the African National Congress (ANC) is to ask National Executive Committee member Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to explain the extraordinary attack on former President Nelson Mandela, which appeared in major British newspapers on Monday and has been attributed to her; Hip-Hop star Molemo Maarohanye, popularly known as Jub Jub, was apparently not only drunk but also high on drugs when he was involved in an accident in which four teenagers lost their lives; Gauteng wasted almost a billion rand chasing after its motorsport dreams, which crashed and burned in spectacular fashion this week; African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) leader Julius Malema addressed students in Johannesburg, daring the taxman to investigate whether he has been paying his taxes and if not, to hand over his money to the poor.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Malema won't keep quiet

Arrest me if I've done wrong. That's the message from African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) leader Julius Malema to the authorities. Malema was addressing students in Johannesburg. He also dared the taxman to investigate whether he has been paying his taxes and if not, to hand over his money to the poor. Malema started the rally in Johannesburg with the song "shoot the boer". He then laid into the finance minister and the taxman challenging them to investigate the claim that he isn't tax compliant: "I dare Pravin Gordhan, SARS and all authorities to go into my account." Malema also lashed out at Cosatu Secretary General Zwelinzima Vavi, saying he won't be subjected to what he called, "factional lifestyle audit".

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; STAR

Crash drivers 'high on drugs'

Hip-Hop star Molemo Maarohanye, popularly known as Jub Jub, was apparently not only drunk but also high on drugs when he was involved in an accident in which four teenagers lost their lives. Police services have confirmed that Jub Jub and Themba Tshabalala, the driver of the other Mini Cooper involved in the crash, had both tested positive for alcohol and drugs.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

ANC to question Winnie on Madiba slurs

The African National Congress (ANC) is to ask National Executive Committee member Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to explain the extraordinary attack on former President Nelson Mandela, which appeared in major British newspapers on Monday and has been attributed to her. ANC spokesperson Jackson Mthembu said on Tuesday morning that they would ask Madikizela-Mandela, when the NEC meets next week, whether she indeed said Mandela had done nothing for the poor and had betrayed the black nation. The Daily Mail reported that Madikizela-Mandela had said that her former husband had done nothing for the poor and should not have accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with "the man who jailed him" (former state president) FW De Klerk. The paper said the comments had been made in an interview with Nadira Naipaul, the wife of novelist V S Naipaul.

IOL.CO.ZA; STAR; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Gauteng's billion-rand motorsport blunder

Gauteng wasted almost a billion rand chasing after its motorsport dreams, which crashed and burned in spectacular fashion this week. The province might also have lost R9 million if the contracts, entered into on Paul Mashatile's watch as Economic Development MEC, had come to fruition. Current Economic Affairs MEC Firoz Cachalia has "amicably terminated" the province's costly multi-year contracts with A1GP and BMW-Sauber, and begun liquidation of the controversial Gauteng Motorsport Company (GMSC).

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

POLITICAL NEWS

Back off, Vavi - ANCyl

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) has warned the Congress of South African Trade Unions's (Cosatu's) General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi to back off. ANCYL President Julius Malema yesterday said neither the youth league nor the ruling party would be "terrorised" by Vavi. "If he (Vavi) wants to challenge us he can do so. We are ready for him," he said. Malema's comments come in the wake of Vavi's stinging attack on what he described as a small group within the ANC which has driven by class materialism and wealth accumulation. Malema said if the trade federation's General Secretary had any hopes of joining the ANC's national executive committee he had to start at branch level.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Malema attacks De Lille, says Zille is 'suffering from Satanism'

ANC Youth League (ANCYL) President Julius Malema was unplugged yesterday as he chastised his political enemies, launching into vicious tirades about satanism and their married lives. Before speaking at the University of Johannesburg during the Youth Progressive Alliance's SRC elections, Malema sang "Shoot the Boer" as a curtain-raiser. He attacked opposition leaders, saying independent Democrats Leader Patricia de Lille's husband "must divorce her" and that Democratic Alliance Leader Helen Zille was involved in Satanism.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); ENEWS SUNRISE @ 06:00

Call to probe JZ 'fraud'

The Congress of the People (COPE) has called for the initial investigation into a "clearly fraudulent document" submitted to Parliament by President Jacob Zuma in 2003 to be reopened. This follows Zuma's failure to declare his personal and family financial interests in the register of member's interests, COPE Parliamentary leader Mvume Dandala said yesterday. "It emerged during the Shabir Shaik judgement that a document which was submitted to the ethics committee and formed the basis for the withdrawal of the case against President Zuma in November 2003, as proof of a 'loan agreement' between Shabir Shaik and President Zuma was fictitious," he said. At the time Parliament claimed the matter was sub judice.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Prisoners take minister to court

A group of prisoners have instituted class action against Justice Minister Jeff Radebe. They are due to have their case heard in the South Gauteng High Court on Tuesday. The prisoners are taking Radebe to court for failing to provide them with transcripts of their trial records. The prisoners said they needed the transcripts to appeal their convictions and sentences for rape, armed robbery and murder. They are demanding the records which have apparently disappeared. If the state cannot provide the 29 applicants with their documents, they will demand in terms of their constitutional rights to be released. The men are being held at the Johannesburg medium B prison, also known as Sun City.

HIGHVELD STREO NEWS @ 10:00

We don't have the worst crime: Cele

National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele has rejected perceptions that South Africa has the worst crime in the world. There have been fears that tourists will be targeted by criminal during the world cup. However, Cele rejected this, saying the country's police force is ready to deal with any criminality during the soccer tournament. But he's acknowledged that crime is a problem in this country.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 13:00

Lennit Max is closely monitoring a probe into rape

Enraged Western Cape Community Safety MEC Lennit Max is now closely monitoring a probe into two Knysna policemen suspected of raping the owner of a guest house last month. He said that he was extremely angry after hearing no real progress has been made into the investigation. Max said that the Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD) were waiting for the results of forensic tests on samples taken from the police vehicle in which the woman was allegedly raped.

CAPE TIMES

Solidarity committed to huge community programme

During talks with President Jacob Zuma yesterday, the trade union Solidarity committed itself to getting involved in a huge community safety programme. In a memorandum discussed with the President, Solidarity undertook to encourage the 136 000 people who participated in the trade union's campaign of anti-crime letters to become actively involved in community safety programmes. Solidarity also undertook to actively mobilise all its structures and their communities in community safety projects. Solidarity also requested a meeting with the Minister of Police to discuss the launch of such a plan as well as the possibility of a community safety conference. President Zuma was also asked to make crime a higher priority on the government's agenda.

NEWS REVIEWS

Protect public servants, premier pleads

Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane has pleaded for people who are reliant on state services to protect public servants sent into their communities. The call followed Mokonyane's visit to Kagiso on the West Rand yesterday to speak to the two woman paramedics who were attacked - one of them was raped - while attending to a young boy in Durban Deep, Roodepoort, at the weekend.

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Cosatu disgusted after 3 workers die on N3

Trade union federation the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has described as disgusting an accident in which three construction workers were hit by a truck and killed on the N3 in Pietermaritzburg on Monday night. "The accident happened when a truck carrying plastic piping lost control on the bend near Town Hill and struck a worker, killing him. This happened at midnight and one lane had to be closed shortly after, two trucks - one carrying fish and another carrying steel - ploughed into the rest of the workers on the side of the closed lane. The fish truck veered off the road and struck the steel truck, that one then hit the plastic piping truck, which was still on the road." Cosatu says it is shocking that the workers were forced to continue working after their colleagues had been killed.

SAFM NEWS @ 12:00

Department changes its tune on labour broking

The Labour Department appears to have done an about-turn on labour broking. People who ran such businesses by computer "in car boots" would be cracked down upon, but the rest of the industry would simply be regulated appropriately, Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana said yesterday. He was cross-questioned by national assembly Labour Portfolio Committee Chairperson and African National Congress (ANC) MP Lumka Yengeni - who has long supported an outright ban on labour broking - after he indicated that policing the rest of the industry was a better route, but acknowledged that he was not sure exactly how this might be done. That would require further discussion, he suggested.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

'Lift wage or face dispute' - Solidarity

Denel had to improve its wage offer or else face the declaration of a dispute, Solidarity said yesterday. "It is evident that the Denel board intends to enforce its instruction that wage increases at the company's various entities not exceed 4%," the union's spokesperson, Jaco Kleynhans, said. This followed an offer by Denel Dynamics for a wage increase of 4% during wage negotiations that kicked off last week. The unions said it had given the company a final opportunity to revise its offer for further negotiations in the second round. Denel did not comment yesterday. Talks with nine more divisions of the defence parastatal lay ahead, Solidarity said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

NEWS BRIEF

Home Affairs says 500 00 IDs not yet collected

Home Affairs says it is still concerned about the high number of identity documents that have not yet been collected from its provincial offices. In the North West alone, the department says it has about 10 00 uncollected IDs at its various regional offices. The department says that more than 500 000 uncollected IDs have been returned to the department's head office.

SFM NEWS @ 08:00

610 special metro trains for WC

Metrorail will roll out 610 special trains in Gauteng to accommodate the tens of thousands of fans expected to visit the province during the 2010 World Cup. Metrorail spokesperson Sibusiso Ngomane says the trains will ferry fans to various stadiums across the province for the world cup games, with 168 of them ferrying fans to matches played at the Coca-Cola Park stadium in Johannesburg and 202 special trains transporting fans to games at Soccer City stadium in Nasrec, Soweto. 240 trains will be dedicated to ferrying fans to matches at the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Transnet denies port talks

Transnet said yesterday that its National Port Authority division was not in talks to build a new coal terminal. South African industry sources said at a coal conference in Mumbai that a new thermal coal export terminal would be built this year at South Dunes. "I'd like to confirm that Transnet is not in talks with anyone regarding building a coal terminal in Richards Bay," spokesman John DIudlu said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Transnet may seek support from private investors

Transnet would consider involving private investors in specialist projects, but this still required shareholder approval, the acting group CE Chris Wells said yesterday. Wells said that although it would be difficult to attract private backers in its multimillion-rand pipeline projects, whose costs had escalated due to the uncertainty in the tariff application, Transnet was looking at three other separate areas to bring in private funders. "The three areas are if Transnet is called to business that we don't want to invest in, the private sector could make an investment." Private investors could also be brought in if there was a project to develop specialist equipment for one customer. "We could invite the private sector to invest and we would operate it. The third area is where there is significant growth that we believe is fundamental for Transnet, but we don't have the capacity on our own." It has approved capital expenditure totalling R93 billion for the next five years, up from R80 billion.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Zille looking to set up a private forensic lab

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille is urgently looking into whether a private forensic laboratory can be set up in the province to help alleviate crippling backlogs at the Health Department and police laboratories. She is working closely with private forensic scientist David Klatzow to determine whether a private facility could work. Zille's spokesperson Robert McDonald says Zille approached Klatzow about one month ago to try and find solutions to deal with the backlogs.

CAPE TIMES

Lance Armstrong in Cape Town

The world's most famous cyclist Lance Armstrong arrived in Cape Town five days ahead of the Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour. Armstrong won the Tour de France seven times and is taking part in the Cycle Tour for the first time. He and other local sporting personalities are to visit schools to promote sport for children. He is working with the JAG Foundation, which gets children involved with sport.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Transnet's costs for pipeline rise 20%

Transnet's costs for building the multi-product pipeline between Durban and Gauteng had ballooned by more than 20% to R15.4 billion, the parastatal said yesterday. The cost was estimated at R12.6 billion at the end of February last year. The additional R2.7 billion will be funded by a mixture of internal resources and debt. Transnet has R7 billion cash on hand and its capital expenditure budget for the next five years has risen to R93 billion. The rise in the cost will result in a 4c a litre increase in fuel prices at completion of the entire project, which has now been shifted to the end of 2012 instead of next year. Neville Eve, General Manager for project development and execution at Transnet Capital Projects, said the hike was a result of rising steel prices, uncertainty in power supply, costs of beefing up security, delays in obtaining regulatory approvals (including environmental impact assessments), deadlines and the recession.

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

Training SA citizens to be good hosts

As the 2010 World Cup draws closer, South Africans have to gear up and show off their hospitable nature when they welcome football fans from across the globe. SA Tourism is running campaigns to help the nation to be the hospitable and gracious hosts they are known as. "South Africans are already excited about the World Cup, so our work isn't that difficult," said SA Tourism Chief Marketing Officer Roshene Singh. "We want to get South Africans to care about tourism and realise that tourism is everyone's business. We have to give tourists a great experience that will make them want to come back," she said. Singh said they are expecting an influx of almost half-a-million people during the tournament.

STAR

RICA internet registration must be improved

The Internet Service Provider's Association (ISPA) believes vendors who take personal details of customers who purchased SIM cards must improve their SIM card registration services. RICA requires internet service providers to take details of their customers and the ISPA argues that it is not clear how an Internet Service Provider will be able to verify RICA documentation in person when customers are hundreds or thousands of kilometres away. ISPA regulatory advisory Dominic Cull issued a statement which says the RICA campaign is costing providers money adding there are indications the exercise will not be completed within the 18-month deadline. Meanwhile, Justice Department spokesperson Tlali Tlali told YFM news consumers who do not comply with the new RICA laws will have their services disconnected.

YNEWS @ 08:00

Gautrain dismisses R10 billion claim

The Gautrain Management Agency has dismissed as spurious a claim of more than R10 billion rand by the Bombela consortium. The claim is for reported delays in the construction process. Bombela claims that the Gauteng government handed over building sites late and in a different sequence, from what had been agreed upon. It says this upset it's planning and involved additional expenses. The Gautrain Management Agency says the claim is unlikely to succeed.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 10:00; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 10:00; NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Zakumi maker forced to stop work

A Chinese factory contracted to produce figurines of World Cup mascot Zakumi has been forced to stop work after accusations that it was running a sweatshop, The Times reported on Tuesday. FIFA's worldwide licensing representative, Global Brands Group, has suspended its approval of Shanghai Fashion Plastic Products and Gifts after an inspection and audit of its factory. The audit was prompted by international media reports that the workers at the factory were paid R23 a day and teenagers were forced to work 13-hour shifts to manufacture Zakumi figures. About 100 000 of the figurines were reportedly destined for Ascendo Industrial, a factory and distributor in KwaZulu-Natal, owned by ANC MP Shiaan-Bin Huang and his wife Su-Luan, who subcontracted the work to the factory in China. Global Brands Group said the audit identified a number of areas of non-compliance with their policy.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; ENEWS DAY @ 13:00; SAFM NEWS @ 07:00

HEALTH NEWS

Britain to supply SA with 42m condoms

Britain is to give 42-million condoms to South Africa in response to a request for an extra billion as part of an HIV prevention drive before the World Cup, the government will announce today. The Guardian reports that the request for British help in stockpiling sufficient condoms for the expected influx of thousands of football supporters in three months' time was made during President Jacob Zuma's recent visit to the UK to meet the Queen. "Obviously there's a big focus on the World Cup coming up and a huge increase in the number of people coming into South Africa," said the international development minister, Gareth Thomas, who will announce the £1 million funding today at an emergency summit in London on HIV prevention and treatment.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA; MAIL & GUARDIAN; CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR

SA: a nation addicted

The most recent Annual Report released by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) indicates that an estimated 250-million people around the world used an illicit drug in the past year. The picture painted in the report of South Africa - one of the few countries in Africa to provide reliable data - was not a pretty one. In fact, it sends a rather clear message that South Africa is not winning its war on drugs. Perhaps even more significantly, it suggests that proportionally the country's biggest users are still in school. If the statistics given in the report are anything to go by, between 24.8 and 41.5 percent of high school kids are using some form of illicit drugs.

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS

Somerset Hospital receives a R2 million donation

Somerset Hospital has received a R2 million donation from Truworthe's, towards desperately needed specialised equipment. Truworthe's Human Resources Director Mark Smith said that the money would be used for a paediatric trauma ward and equipment. The new ward will open on 1 May. The hospital is situated opposite the Cape Town Stadium in Green Point. Hospital Funding Manager Dianne Pols said that the trauma unit would play a vital role during World Cup matches.

CAPE TIMES

Measles outbreak hoped to be controlled

City of Cape Town Health officials hope that a measles outbreak can be brought under control and efforts are underway to stabilise the situation. An immunisation campaign was launched on Monday. The campaign will run until 23 March and is aimed at children aged between six months and two years as they are considered to be most at risk.

CAPE TIMES

Hospital loses baby's body

A Durban mother is still unable to bury her dead baby after the baby mysteriously disappeared from the mortuary at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in Durban. In January, the nurse took the stillborn baby's remains to the mortuary but there was no staff on site so she left the baby there. The mother, Zihle Shabane said the hospital only called her once since the incident. KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Sibongiseni Dhlomo visited the baby's family last week to sympathise and assure them that he would look into the matter.

MERCURY

TAC and Health MEC to meet this week

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) is set to meet with Western Cape Health MEC Theuns Botha for talks of poor service delivery at clinics and the department poor communication to community structures. This follows last week's protests at Botha's offices in Dorp Street where the group demanded a meeting with the MEC. The department's poor handling of the measles outbreak will also be on the agenda.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Big Brother public servants under microscope

Senior managers at Gauteng state hospitals, principals of nursing colleges and heads of forensic laboratories are to undergo scrutiny in a bid to make sure the right people are employed, the State Security Agency said yesterday. The Gauteng Health Department confirmed it had instructed senior managers to complete security clearance forms by the end of the month.

STAR

Labels offer more food for thought

Fat Free takes on a new meaning this year. The Department of Health has gazetted new regulations for labelling and advertising food so that consumers have a better idea of what essentially they're buying and eating. Essentially the regulations mean that foodstuffs should be labelled, and what's on the label or in the advert must be an honest description of what you'll be eating, according to department spokesperson Fidel Hadebe.

STAR

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Adult World forges ahead with new outlet

Adult World said on Tuesday its plans to open an outlet in Oudtshoorn would go ahead despite strong opposition from locals. Residents expressed outrage at the plans, claiming the shop would be located too close to Van Reede Primary School in the little Karoo town. They believe this would be a bad influence to children and planned a protest for next week. Adult World CEO Francois Joubert insisted their business activities would not affect school children. "Even if you stand in the shop entrance, you can't see the products in the shop. We have specifically done it that way so that the youth can not pass our shop and see things that they shouldn't see," said Joubert.

EWN.CO.ZA

MCM suspends three officials for stealing

Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) has suspended three Cape Town officials for allegedly stealing more than R80 000 from a government fund. It is alleged that the money was electronically diverted from the Marine Resources Fund to the account of one of the officials. MCM spokesperson Zolile Nkayi says the money was donated to them from Norway and was meant to be used for capacity building and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Zulu royal belt to be tightened

The Acting Director General for KwaZulu-Natal, Roger Govender introduced an intensive programme yesterday to transform the Royal Household Department into a public entity. The aim is to transform the department, making it self-sufficient by generating its own funds, instead of being reliant on taxpayers' money. The transformation of the department into the Royal Trust is expected to have serious repercussions for the department's staff and negotiations are underway with the organised labour and employees about their transfer to the trust. Govender said plans are at an advanced stage.

WITNESS

Cape Town libraries will be forced to close

Cape Town libraries will be forced to close or downscale operations from July because of severe budget cuts. The Helderzicht Library in Somerset West has already closed. Ninnie Steyn from the City of Cape Town's Community Services says an anticipated further cut in general expenses will result in more libraries having to close as the current service levels cannot be continued given these outlooks.

CAPE TIMES

Tshwane Mayor won't discuss her council issues with media

Tshwane Mayor Gwen Ramakgopa has refused to comment on statements by Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Sicele Shiceka, that her council could be placed under administration. During her state of the city address yesterday, the mayor said the capital's R700 million overdraft has been paid back, and the city is on track to stabilise its billing systems. Shiceka has said financial problems, regular wastes strikes, the suspension of city manager Kiba Kekana and infighting in Ramakgopa's council are all indications that Tshwane need intervention from national government. Ramakgopa says she will only discuss the statement with Shiceka: "Unfortunately I don't discuss the minister with the media and so far he has not raised the issue with me," said Ramakgopa.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

KZN optimistic for 2010

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Zweli Mkhize, attended the Dialogue Series function at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban last night. The function, focusing on the state of the province, revealed that the provincial government is optimistic that the World Cup, including the billions invested in infrastructure, would help the province in the long term. Mkhize said there will be new ports, new roads, new projects and power stations that will assist the province. The economy of the province is also expected to be boosted by the successful inroads made in alleviating corruption and poverty, as well as prioritising issues in several sectors.

MERCURY

EDUCATION NEWS

Education Department is taking disciplinary action

The Western Cape Education Department is taking disciplinary action against the principal of a Khayelitsha school after a pupil who failed last year was promoted to the next grade without the necessary procedure followed. Pupils alleged that the principle and the Grade 11 learner had a sexual relationship. Education MEC Donald Grant said yesterday that no substantive evidence had been provided by any party to support the allegations of sexual misconduct against the principal.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Plan to curb school violence

The KwaZulu-Natal Education Department will soon form safety committees to make schools safe. The formation of safety committees is aimed at helping to curb school violence such as stabbings, shootings and abuse. Education spokesperson, Mbali Thusi said the committees will comprise of teachers, police, parents, pupils and municipal councillors. Education MEC Senzo Mchunu will announce the details of how the safety committees will operate at Dundee Secondary School tomorrow.

WITNESS

UKZN students strike

Lectures at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College campus were disrupted yesterday after about 200 students took part in a protest. The issues raised by the students include a shortage of accommodation; appeals against financial aid being rejected; and students being denied registration as a result of last year's outstanding fees. Similar gripes mobilised students to strike at UKZN's Pietermaritzburg campus last week. The strike is believed to have been organised by the branch of the Young Communist League rather than the Student Representative Council.

WITNESS

Municipal skill development programme launched

Jobless Information Technology graduates have been identified as vital parts of a new private and public partnership which will assist municipalities in providing efficient services to the people. The partnership, including the Southern African developmental bank, Microsoft South Africa and the SA Local Government Association, have joined forces to position youths as promoters of good governance in the new Municipal Skills Development Programme launched in Gauteng yesterday. South African Local Government Association (SALGA) CEO, Xolile George, says the pilot programme focuses on placing undergraduates and graduates in municipalities.

NEWS @ 06:00

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

ANC: SA recovery will take years

The ANC has welcomed the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) report that Africa will see a relatively quick recovery from the global economic crisis. "The good news is that growth has returned to Africa - a confirmation of the recent message articulated by South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in the Budget Speech," said ANC spokesperson Brian Sokutu on Monday. IMF Managing Director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said improved policies in the face of the crisis helped the continent get through the storm better than expected. "At the IMF we anticipate that Africa will see a relatively quick recovery, with average growth bouncing back to 4.5% this year and 5.5% in 2011," he said. Strauss-Kahn said the global recession struck Africa through several channels that led to exports collapsing, banks running into trouble as non-performing loans grew, and investments diminished.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Airlines responsible for checking passports - Home Affairs

Government on Monday said it was airlines' responsibility to ensure their passengers' passports were in order as they departed from their countries of origin. Cycling legend Lance Armstrong's visit to Cape Town started on bad note as he was refused entry at the Cape Town International Airport on Monday night. The American cycling ace wrote on Twitter that his passport was full and there was no space for officials to stamp it. A while later the star tweeted that he had finally been allowed in. Armstrong is in the Mother City for the Cape Argus/Pick n Pay Cycle Tour this weekend. Home Affairs' Siobhan McCarthy said it was vital airlines took responsibility and checked their passenger's passports.

HIGHVELD NEWS @ 10:00

Zille will demand explanations from mayors

Premier Helen Zille will demand explanations from Western Cape mayors who were absent without apology from a briefing by the auditor-general on the outcome of last year's municipal audits. Auditor-General Terence Mombembe addressed leaders from the province's 30 municipalities at the Civic Centre yesterday. He called on mayors and municipalities to get back to basics.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Final whistle beckons for transport plans

Upgrades to major airports and the construction of a new airport will be completed by the end of next month, Airports Company South Africa (Acsa) says. With less than three months to go before the Soccer World Cup, transport plans are being fine tuned despite lower than expected passenger numbers. About 100 000 international air tickets had been sold so far, the Department of Transport said last week. This is a sharp decline from international projections that the World Cup would attract 450 000 visitors. The smaller number of visitors is expected to reduce pressure on smaller airports. Major upgrades to Cape Town and OR Tambo international airports are almost complete, while a new international airport for Durban will be completed next month, Acsa says.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Working together we can save more water

South Africans must do more to save water. That's the call from Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Buyelwa Sonjica as the country gears up to celebrate National Water Week between 15-21 March 2010. Water Week is an annual countrywide campaign that mobilises citizens to appreciate the value of water as a scarce natural resource, and this year it focuses on the important aspect of water conservation and demand management. President Jacob Zuma reminded South Africans during his State of the Nation address that South Africa is not a water-rich country and thus called on all of us to change our attitudes and behaviour towards the way we use water both in households, industries and in agriculture.

NEWS REVIEWS

Taxi bosses give minister ultimatum

Taxi bosses have given Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele an ultimatum: they want him to spell out their role in the World Cup transport plans within a week. Irate South African National Council (Santaco) members told MPs yesterday that 93 days before the kickoff, they had yet to hear a word from Ndebele about the part their taxis would play in transporting visitors during the event. The organisation's General Secretary, Philip Taaibosch, said the government's silence had prompted him to write to Ndebele last week, asking the minister to clarify what role taxi operators would play, but he had no response.

STAR

Former director general denies falsely awarding R200m tender

Former director general of Public Works Department, Manye Moroka, has denied claims that he had awarded a R200 million contract - to a company that was supposed to verify the assets of the department - without following proper tender awarding procedures. He resigned from the department last year. Moroka says the decision had actually been taken by former minister Thoko Didiza in conjunction with her provincial counterparts. Department officials have told Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) that disciplinary actions are being considered against Moroka. However, Moroka says he was merely implementing their decision.

SAFM NEWS @ 06:00

Zuma to speak on his financial assets today

President Jacob Zuma is finally expected to release a comprehensive statement on his financial assets today. The Executive Members' Ethics Act says the President and all cabinet ministers must declare their financial interests within 60 days of taking office. Democratic Alliance says they will press on with their call for public protector to probe into the matter regardless of what comes out of the President's statement today.

ENEWS SUNRISE @ 06:00

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, the Department of Communications yesterday gave MPs a firm commitment that it had no intention to continue bailing out "problematic" state-owned entities, including Sentech and the SABC. Appearing before the National Assembly's Communications Committee, the Director-General Mamodupi Mohlala was emphatic that the funding models of the entities falling under the department had to be put right. Cosatu yesterday welcomed the news that Global Brands Group, FIFA's worldwide licensing company, has ordered the Chinese factory contracted to produce figurines of World Cup mascot Zakumi to stop work, in response to accusations that it was running a sweatshop. The country's big four consumer food groups - Tiger Brands, Pioneer Foods, Foodcorp and Premier Foods - will come before the Competition Tribunal again for a ruling on alleged price-fixing in their milling divisions.

NEWS REVIEWS

Food firms face fixing blow

The country's big four consumer food groups - Tiger Brands, Pioneer Foods, Foodcorp and Premier Foods - will come before the Competition Tribunal again for a ruling on alleged price-fixing in their milling divisions since 2006. The Competition Commission said yesterday that it had probed the grain millers and would give its findings to the Competition Tribunal, which could impose fines. Tiger Brands and Premier Foods have already been granted conditional immunity in return for their co-operation. The big four, which were also found party to a bread cartel in the same year, have been targeted in the commission's investigation, while wheat milling and maize millers were also probed. "This is the logical next step," Tembinkosi Bonakele, the Deputy Commissioner of the commission said yesterday.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Pick n Pay chairperson set to retire

Pick n Pay Chairperson Raymond Ackerman will formally retire. He had been at the helm of the company for 43 years, after having bought it as a chain of three small stores in Cape Town in 1967. The business tycoon will hand over the reigns of the leading retailer to his son, Gareth Ackerman. Ackerman says although he will give up all his executive duties he will continue to promote the companies values and principals. Gareth was responsible for the Ackerman Family Office and is the investment manager for his family interests. Ackerman will hold a media briefing in Cape Town this morning.

SAFM NEWS @ 07:00

Setback for firms in court ruling on duties

The Constitutional Court yesterday made a ruling that prevents private companies from interfering in the government's administration of antidumping duties. It ruled in favour of the International Trade Commission (Itac) against metals company Scraw SA's challenge to government's plan to lift antidumping duties on stranded wires, rope and cable, which it manufactures. The ruling opens the way for other companies to import the steel products, which are used in mining, fishing and other industries, allowing for more competition in those products. Scraw had challenged the Itac's October 2008 recommendation to the Trade and Industry Minister that antidumping duties set in 2002 be removed.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Funds shortage may constrain competition watchdog

The Competition Commission would need an additional R237 million over the next three years to cover all its expenses, Commissioner Shan Ramburath told Parliament yesterday. The government had allocated R446.5 million to the commission for the years between 2010 and 2013, but this would not be enough, the Economic Development Committee heard. Oversight of the commission, with that of the Industrial Development Corporation and small business promotion agency Khula, has been taken over by Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel's department.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

'Sweatshop' audit hailed

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) yesterday welcomed the news that Global Brands Group, FIFA's worldwide licensing company, has ordered the Chinese factory contracted to produce figurines of World Cup mascot Zakumi to stop work, in response to accusations that it was running a sweatshop. Global Brands has suspended its approval of Shanghai Fashion Plastic Products & Gifts after an inspection and audit of its factory. Workers are reported to be getting the equivalent of R23 a day and teenagers are forced to work 13 hour shifts to manufacture Zakumi figures.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR

Confidence climbs

The business confidence index improved at its fastest pace in 16 years in the first quarter of 2010, led by better sentiment among car dealers, a survey showed yesterday. The index jumped 15 points compared with the previous quarter, adding to a recovery seen towards the end of 2009, when the economy pulled out of its first recession in nearly two decades. Rand Merchant Bank said in a statement that the latest increase put the index back at levels seen before the height of the global economic crisis 18 months ago, but warned that the recovery in the economy was still fragile.

CITIZEN, Citi Business

No more bailouts for SABC, Sentech

The Department of Communications yesterday gave MPs a firm commitment that it had no intention to continue bailing out "problematic" state-owned entities, including Sentech and the SABC. Appearing before the National Assembly's Communications Committee, the new Director-General Mamodupi Mohlala was emphatic that the funding models of the entities falling under the department had to be put right. She said that, "looking at the fiscus" as a funding mechanism was not the solution.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, the rand was in focus as International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Dominique Strauss Kahn said yesterday that devaluing the rand would be a "very short-sighted" move to make. FirstRand was also in focus this morning as it has completed several "significant transactions" following the signing of an agreement with China Construction Bank (CCB), Chief Executive Sizwe Nxasana said yesterday. However, it expects corporate bad debts to peak by July and said that business volumes would stay subdued as many customers remain heavily in debt. FirstRand yesterday reported a 2% drop in diluted headline earnings a share to 85.3c for the six months to the end of December.

NEWS REVIEWS

Market fears 'create opportunities'

Share markets seem to be suffering indigestion because trading, also on the local bourse, is becoming more volatile. What markets need is "healthy food", and such nourishment is in prospect, said Alwyn van der Merwe, director of investments at Sanlam Private Investments, at the group's investment forecast presentation on Monday. The "healthy food" to which he is referring is analysts' forecasts on companies' earnings. Analysts believe the earnings of companies on the JSE's all-share index could climb an average 40% in the coming year, he notes. This growth is largely spurred on by the anticipation of robust growth in the earnings of resources companies, which analysts estimate could be 82% in the coming year. Van der Merwe says such a large jump in earnings is quite possible if one looks at the low base from which most companies' earnings are coming.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Saving: 'Employers can do more'

Employers can do more to help foster a savings culture in South Africa, a survey released by Old Mutual on Tuesday has found. According to the Old Mutual Savings Monitor, only 41% of South Africans working in formal employment in metro areas belonged to a retirement fund. The survey included 1 000 South African households in the main metropolitan areas, working in both the formal and informal sectors. It showed that only 54% of South Africans of pre-retirement age, 45 to 59 years, had formal retirement savings. "In countries with such a low savings culture, there is an increased burden on the government to provide retirement assistance, which in turn, could increase the need to raise taxes. Households often underestimate their future liabilities, especially the cost of educating children and the cost of retirement," Old Mutual said.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Devaluing the rand 'would be short-sighted'

Devaluing the rand would be a "very short-sighted" move to make, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Dominique Strauss Kahn said yesterday. He said any policy measures that led to a weakening of the rand would scare off the foreign investors and capital needed to fund South Africa's current account deficit. The rand gained about 30% against the dollar last year and is considered relatively strong at current levels near R7.40. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has called on the Reserve Bank to widen its inflation targeting mandate and wants a much weaker rand to boost local industries and create jobs. Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said he would like to see less volatility in the rand.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star) ; BUSINESS DAY (National) ; TIMES Business Times ; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Manuel quashed probe into high bank charges

Trevor Manuel put the brakes on the Competition Commission's 2008 demand for reduced bank charges, but the issue is back on the table, commission Chief Shan Ramburuth said yesterday. Briefing Parliament's new economic development committee, he said that the commission, the Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Department of Trade and Industry had set up a team to ensure that the 28 recommendations of the commission's 2006-2008 banking inquiry were enforced. The proposals ranged from a R5 cap on the penalty for a rejected debit order to reductions in ATM costs. "The inquiry believes it is not the remit of the banks to further penalise their customers," the report said.

TIMES Business Times

FirstRand waiting on RMB rebound

FirstRand produced almost unchanged interim earnings. The expectation is that the group's longer term fortunes would be driven by a powerful rebound in Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), its corporate and proprietary banking business. Earnings at banking group FirstRand rose 1%, and management expected a "subdued" second half to its financial year. Commenting on its results, Sizwe Nxasana, FirstRand CEO, told shareholders, "The anticipated modest growth in the South African economy will be driven mainly by further investment by government and some improvement in consumption levels. Whilst this will not drive significant growth in advances, as levels of consumer indebtedness are still at historic highs, FirstRand does expect this increased economic activity to benefit its banking franchises." Earnings at the group rose 1% to R4.6 billion for the six months ended December.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Bad debt eats into FirstRand earnings

FirstRand expects corporate bad debts to peak by July and said that business volumes would stay subdued as many customers remain heavily in debt. The banking group, which yesterday reported a 2% drop in diluted headline earnings a share to 85.3c for the six months to the end of December, said it did not expect significant defaults in its second half because retailing bad debts had peaked. "We think the non-performing loans and bad debts in the corporate and commercial space are going to peak from around the middle of the year," First Rand Chief Executive Sizwe Nxasana, who took over from one of FirstRand's founding members, Paul Harris, in December, said yesterday.

TIMES Business Times

Prices show recovery signs

The average price of houses in all categories was higher last month compared with a year ago, Absa said yesterday, and the improvement in the housing market was expected to gather further momentum this year on the back of the recovery in the economy. However, Absa said house prices adjusted for the increase in the consumer price index were still lower last month than a year ago.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star) ; TIMES Business Times

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Arsenal's stunning 5-0 drubbing of FC Porto in their Champions League last 16, second leg in London last night provided a lesson in how to come back from a terrible defeat and proved that their place in the knockout round is indeed deserved. The Gunners went down 2-1 to Porto a fortnight ago thanks to terrible goalkeeping from Lukas Fabianski and were on the receiving end of harsh criticism in the days that followed. Many thought the defeat would be the beginning of yet another Arsenal demise in a major competition this season. But as has so often been the case with the Gunners this season, they proved last night they could not be written off. They showed once again that they are alive and well and in serious contention for honours after appearing dead and buried for the umpteenth time, and indeed, the Gunners' doubters were made to eat their words one more time.

News Reviews

Bafana finally leaving for Brazil

Bafana Bafana are leaving for their intensive training camp in Brazil in dribs and drabs. Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and his two assistants, Pitso Mosimane and Jairo Leal, left on Sunday night, while the medical team left on Monday with the first group of 14 players. Two more groups were due to leave yesterday and today to be in Brazil in time for their first friendly against Volta Redonda on Saturday. On 14 March, Bafana will play against Fluminense at Granja Comary, followed by a clash with Cruzeiro at Mineirao Stadium three days later. They will also play Botafogo on 20 March. This team is guided by former Bafana coach Joel Santana. Bafana's last game will be against Paraguay on 31 March.

SOWETAN (Late Final), Sport, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Arsenal power into Champions League quarters

Arsenal beat FC Porto 5-0 in their Champions League last 16, second leg in London last night to progress to the quarterfinals 6-2 on aggregate. The first leg finished 2-1 in Porto a fortnight ago.

Bayern Munich advanced to the last eight on away goals after their last 16, second leg ended 3-2 in Florence last night. The tie finished 4-4 on aggregate after Bayern won the first leg 2-1.

STAR, Sport; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Haselbacher takes opening stage of Giro del Capo

Austria's Rene Haselbacher won the 106km opening stage of the Pick n Pay Cape Argus Giro del Capo yesterday. Malcolm Lange was second, with Burry Stander finishing third.

STAR, Sport

Vermaak to start from the bench against Waratahs

Scrumhalf Jano Vermaak "will start from the bench" in the Lions' Super 14 match against the Waratahs in Sydney on Friday, coach Dick Muir said yesterday. Vermaak was called up to the Lions touring squad as a replacement on Monday, together with Wigan Pekeur. He made his return last to action for the Lions Vodacom Cup team last Saturday after recovering from an ankle injury.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.3990	(-0.0335)
Rand - Sterling £	11.0837	(+0.0117)
Rand - Euro €	10.0441	(+0.0098)
JSE Allshare	27898.1	(-218.55)
Gold	\$1115.7	(-10.00)
Platinum	\$1574.0	(-29.00)
Brent Crude Oil	\$79.5	(-0.95)

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

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	15	(30)
Cape Town	19	(24)
Durban	21	(26)
East London	17	(30)
Johannesburg	13	(28)
Kimberley	16	(33)
Mafikeng	14	(30)
Nelspruit	18	(29)
Pietermaritzburg	18	(27)
Polokwane	13	(29)
Port Elizabeth	15	(27)
Pretoria	17	(30)