

THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, on the eve of President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation address, it has emerged that he has two daughters - aged 12 and seven - with a prominent Pietermaritzburg businesswoman; the General Council of the Bar has taken issue with Justice Minister Jeff Radebe for appointing former acting national director of public prosecutions Mokotedi Mpshe as an acting judge; and the ANC is pulling out all the stops to honour Nelson Mandela on the 20th anniversary of his short walk to freedom - and is hoping that some of the gloss will rub off onto the beleaguered President Jacob Zuma.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

Making the news today: President Jacob Zuma is expected to make mention of Nelson Mandela's 20th anniversary of his release from prison in his State of the Nation address today. Zuma is also expected to focus on jobs and the economy. Also on the eve of State of the Nation address, it has emerged that he has two daughters - aged 12 and seven - with a prominent Pietermaritzburg businesswoman. The General Council of the Bar of SA on Wednesday called on the justice minister to put Mokotedi Mpshe's appointment as an acting judge on hold amid concerns over the independence of the judiciary. Toyota SA is to recall 52 546 vehicles because of accelerator problems.

NEWS REVIEWS

2010 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Zuma to announce policy change

President Jacob Zuma will indicate a change in industrial policy in his State of the Nation address, but leave an announcement on monetary policy to the National Treasury, Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said yesterday. Chabane said that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan was best-placed to deal with the issue of the Reserve Bank's mandate when he tabled his Budget next Wednesday. Chabane ruled out pronouncements on nationalisation or electricity.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star); BUSINESS DAY (National)

Zuma to focus on jobs recovery in today's address

Jobs and the economy will be the big focus of President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation address at Parliament this evening as he tries to move out from under the shadow of the love-child scandal that rocked the nation. Zuma will be speaking directly to millions of South Africans tuned in to a live broadcast of his speech on TV and radio at 19:00. With Nelson Mandela expected to watch him on the 20th anniversary of his release from prison, Zuma is likely to pay tribute to the elder statesman, reflect on how far the country has come and spell out what needs to be done.

STAR

POLITICAL NEWS

Malema just didn't pitch

Hundreds of Cape Peninsula University of Technology students waited almost four hours yesterday to hear African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) President Julius Malema speak at the Belville campus. But their hopes were dashed when it was eventually announced that Malema had been called to a meeting in Parliament, despite having confirmed earlier that he would be at the meeting.

STAR

SANParks and AfriForum drop racism case

South African National Parks (SANParks) and AfriForum have reached an agreement regarding a racial discrimination complaint by two white students. The students claimed that a Table Mountain National Park employee told them that a hut on a hiking trail was only for black people when they enquired about a booking. AfriForum has decided to withdraw the complaint as there is no reason to pursue the matter further. SANParks said that after an internal investigation, no conclusive results were found.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

KaMagwaza-Msibi resumes duties as Zululand mayor

Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) National Chairperson Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi yesterday continued with her duties as Mayor of Zululand after being redeployed by the party to the KwaZulu-Natal legislature two weeks ago. She received strong support from Zululand traditional leaders who expressed concern that she was being "persecuted" by her party. IFP spokesperson Thulasizwe Buthelezi has called on Peggy Nkonyeni, Speaker of the legislature, to swear in KaMagwaza-Msibi.

MERCURY

DA inspects roads

The Democratic Alliance (DA) discovered in its inspection of roads in the eThekweni and Johannesburg municipalities that years of neglect and poor planning have led to the degradation of road infrastructure. The party said that the condition of roads in the two cities was "at a tipping point". In Durban, the DA took pictures of Kenville Road in Umgeni Heights, North East Road, part of the KwaMashu Highway, Dukuzu Road in KwaMashu and Wolraad and Thorn roads in Austerville, which were found to be the worst.

MERCURY

DA calls for urgent action on roads

Unless urgent action was taken to rescue South Africa's roads infrastructure network, the estimated R164 billion maintenance backlog would spiral further out of control and become irreversible, the Democratic Alliance (DA) said yesterday. Transport spokesperson Stuart Farrow's comment follow the party's investigation into potholes in Johannesburg and Durban. The probe was triggered by an incident in which a Durban woman injured in a car accident caused by pothole won damages from the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government.

BUSINESS DAY (National); CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Phosa seeks R1m, apology

African National Congress (ANC) Treasurer-General Mathews Phosa is claiming R1 million in damages and insisting on a public apology after a fellow party member accused him of "funding and fueling" service delivery protests in Mpumalanga. The allegations were made by Raymond Makamo, the Mpumalanga Secretary of the SA National Civics Organisation - and ANC ally - in an interview with Ligwalagwala radio station on Monday and Tuesday. Makamo is also a member of the ANC.

THE TIMES

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

SADC top cops meet for 2010 WC preparations

Swaziland's Police Commissioner Isaac Magagula recently attended an extraordinary one-day meeting for the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO), in Durban, South Africa, where among the agenda was security provisions for the upcoming World Cup football spectacular to be held in SA in June. The meeting had been convened by the SA Police Service Commissioner Bheki Cele and was also attended by police chiefs from other regional countries like Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. The purpose of the meeting was to address urgent security issues with the aim of tightening the systems and plans in readiness of the upcoming 2010 World Cup and generally, deal with the scourge of transnational and cross border crime within the region.

OBSERVER.ORG.SZ

GCB questions Mpshe appointment

The General Council of the Bar of SA on Wednesday called on the justice minister to put Mokotedi Mpshe's appointment as an acting judge on hold amid concerns over the independence of the judiciary. At a heads of court meeting in October 2008, the council expressed concerns about the appointment of state employees such as members of staff of the State Attorney's office, the Asset Forfeiture Unit and the National Prosecuting Authority, as acting judges. Mpshe was the acting National Director of Public Prosecutions while Vusi Pikoli was suspended and later fired. Mpshe was then appointed to act in the North West High Court, Mafikeng between 1 February to 31 July 2010.

The Star reports: Justice Minister Jeff Radebe's spokesperson Tladi Tladi said the minister would respond appropriately once he had carefully considered the concern.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; SAfm NEWS EXTRA @ 11:00; STAR; BUSINESS DAY

Dladla acquitted of charges

Muzingaye Mxolisi Dladla, the "blue-light" policeman who shot at an elderly motorist while transporting President Jacob Zuma was yesterday acquitted of attempted murder and malicious injury to property. Durban Regional Court Magistrate Fariedha Mohamed said that there was a lack of evidence against Dladla.

MERCURY

Municipal officials arrested for fraud

Crime intelligence investigators have arrested two eThekweni municipal officials suspected of committing fraud at their respective offices. A woman was apprehended at KE Masinga Road municipal offices while the second suspect, a senior financial official in the accounting division of the Treasury, was called out of a budget meeting. Krish Kumar, Deputy City Manager for the Treasury, said that although the man managed the capital budget section, he had minimal control over the City's finances. Kumar said that an internal probe will be conducted and appropriate action will be taken.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

'Violent protests destroy the infrastructure'

Disgruntled communities must approach the Office of the Public Protector with their service delivery complaints rather than embark on violent protests, Public Protector Thulisile Madonsela said yesterday. She was speaking in Alexandra and ensured the her audience that she "will work tirelessly to ensure that your complaints are addressed without delay."

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Recovery in labour sector to take months - Solidarity

The trade union Solidarity on Monday warned that the latest unemployment survey for the fourth quarter of 2009 that was released by Statistics South Africa does not mean that the labour sector will immediately have better prospects. Although the survey shows that 89 000 net new jobs were created in the past quarter, the number of discouraged jobseekers actually cancels out the progress made in the sector. The number of discouraged jobseekers has increased by 54 000 in the past quarter. "Unemployment levels in South Africa have now merely stagnated, but it doesn't mean that thousands of new job opportunities will soon arise," explained Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans. "In addition, the jobs created for this year's Soccer World Cup are not at all sustainable in the long-term, and job creation at this level cannot be regarded as progress."

NEWS REVIEWS

Cosatu unhappy with WC developments

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) says the Western Cape is not benefiting as they should from the 2010 World Cup. The World Cup is turning into a great rip off on so many fronts. The Western Cape is losing jobs as a result of the FIFA actions, notes a News Today report. "It seems that whilst in the rest of the country FIFA and the World Cup related activities are growing the economy, the W Cape is being prejudiced," the federation says.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Eskom suspends four employees

Eskom had suspended four employees who participated in a Carte Blanche broadcast on the company's employment practices, the utility said yesterday. The four foreign employees complained that after their arrival in South Africa their pay and benefits were not what they had expected.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Manyi accuses top firms of not transforming

JSE-listed companies and multinationals were not transforming, said Jimmy Manyi, Director-General of the Department of Labour, but those in the industry said they were working hard to make changes. Manyi this week said the department would focus on companies in the pharmaceutical, mining and financial service industries this year. Manyi said he did not just suspect the firms were not complying with the employment equity legislation. "I know for sure because that is the advantage of having (Black Management Forum) members everywhere", he said. "Listed companies must lead by example because they are at the cutting edge of the economy. If they do the right thing then it will be easier for everyone else to follow". But Khotso Mokhele, the Chairperson of Impala Platinum, disputed Manyi's claim, saying it was a relative statistic from "where he (Manyi) is sitting".

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Solidarity asks Zuma to focus on 5 burning issues

Solidarity yesterday called on President Jacob Zuma to focus on five serious burning issues during his State of the Nation address today. The trade union believes that these five issues are currently serious weak points for the government. "The five issues we believe deserve the most attention are the country's infrastructure, education, safety, affirmative action and the crisis at Eskom. Solidarity is concerned that South Africa's credibility has been severely damaged. If the government is judged based on these five burning issues, we see that they have completely failed to correctly carry out these basic government functions," said Jaco Kleynhans, spokesperson of Solidarity.

NEWS REVIEWS

Cosatu 'failed to learn hard lessons'

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) does not seem too keen to learn from the hard lessons of union movements in other parts of the world, an analyst said in a report published yesterday. Writing in the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation's annual transformation review, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu said Cosatu's political power and influence would be the envy of union federations in other developing countries. Its future was being fiercely contested by those who prioritised political influence and those who gave primacy to building organisational power.

Business Day reports that Cosatu has rejected the claim that they are weak.

STAR; BUSINESS DAY (National)

NEWS BRIEF

I will fight the closure, says CPT crèche owner

An Mfuleni crèche owner said on Tuesday she was prepared to fight the City of Cape Town to keep her doors open. City officials have been threatening to shut down the Buhle Baba Ntwana Day Care Centre. An official said the centre does not have the necessary facilities and could not accommodate the 200 children enrolled there. Crèche owner Pumla Gigi said she would resist the closure, saying, "They say the crèche must be closed because it's not viable for the children. Where must we take the children to if they are closing this crèche?" Meanwhile, city health director Ivan Bromfield said they needed to act in the interest of the children. "It's about the health and safety of the children. You can't operate a day care or a centre if you don't have toilet facilities for the children or potable water for them," said Bromfield.

EWN.CO.ZA

BRT 'not a threat to taxis'

There were no plans for Johannesburg's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to kill off the taxi industry, mayoral committee for transport member Rehana Moosajee said yesterday. She said the BRT project intended to improve the city's public transport services, not take it over. "We just don't want it to be the only form of public transport across Johannesburg," Moosajee said. Adding that the city was involved in formal negotiation to reach an agreement with the taxi industry to operate the BRT buses.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Formal word on Toyota SA recall

Toyota SA is to recall 52 546 vehicles because of accelerator problems, the company's president said in Johannesburg on Wednesday. The recall would be limited to Toyota Corolla models from February 2007 to January 2010, Toyota Auris models from June 2006 to January 2010, and Toyota Verso models from October 2008 to January 2010. The fixing of these models will start from 23 of this month. Around 60 000 vehicles exported from South Africa to countries in Africa and Europe were also expected to form part of the recall.

WHEELS24.CO.ZA - WHEELS 24; MOTORING.CO.ZA; SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 12; PRETORIA NEWS; BUSINESS DAY (National); STAR

SADC to start regional stock trading soon

Investors are months away from being able to trade stocks across 10 securities exchanges in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through a common technical interconnectivity platform - signalling the first significant step towards the integration of one of Africa's economic regions. The Committee of SADC Stock Exchange (CoSSE), which starts a two-day meeting in Cape Town today, is expected to finalise the agree hub-and-spoke exchange interconnectivity model.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Many trying to cash in on allure of an iconic brand

Oscar winner Charlize Theron, Republic of the Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso and World Cup fraudsters have learnt the lesson: the Nelson Mandela brand is not for sale. All have been rebuked by representatives for Mandela who guard against misuse of his name and image, which crops up everywhere from T-shirts to email scams. "The Nelson Mandela Foundation has had difficulty with having to protect Madiba's name," says Sello Hatang, of the office Mandela established in 1999 after stepping down as president,

PRETORIA NEWS

Gautrain says airport line may be ready for WC

The rapid rail link between Sandton and OR Tambo International Airport is likely to be ready in time for the Soccer World Cup in June, Gautrain said yesterday. Although the train is not a World Cup project, its readiness would ease concern that existing public transport plans may not be sufficient for the many thousands of visitors expected in South Africa for the event. Barbara Jensen, spokesperson for the project, told Business Day yesterday that although the airport-to-Sandton link was not a World Cup project, "chances are very good that it can be ready."

BUSINESS DAY (National)

HEALTH NEWS

Limpopo Heath Dept prepared for World Cup

The Limpopo Department of Health will deploy 1 500 emergency medical services personnel for the 2010 World Cup finals in Polokwane. Provincial spokesperson Selby Makgotho said that MEC Miriam Segabutla was delighted that all the health operations as required by FIFA have been finalised and were being implemented. Makgotho said the provincial medical operation centre for the World Cup will be based at the provincial headquarters. He said the centre will be linked to the Peter Mokaba Sports Centre whenever Cup matches are being played at the new stadium. The centre will have a phone line, two-way radio, TV, laptop, emergency lighting system, fire extinguishers and first-aid equipment. Makgotho said Limpopo's Provincial 2010 FIFA Health Committee members were also happy with the preparations.

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

SA's health facilities ready for World Cup influx

South Africa's health facilities are ready for the 2010 World Cup, Deputy Health Minister Molefi Sefularo said in Pretoria on Tuesday. He was speaking after a workshop which, he said, had identified challenges and gaps, and the need for a task team to remove obstacles to providing comprehensive health and medical care. World Health Organisation (WHO) country representative Dr Stella Anyangwe said that everyone, including the United Nations' agencies, wanted SA to succeed in hosting the World Cup. She encouraged the government to make use of WHO technical assistance in training, documentation preparation and ensuring safe water and proper sanitation. She said the WHO offices in Brazzaville and Geneva were ready to offer their support and she urged the government to submit a list of its needs. Local organising committee representative Victor Ramathasela said the country was ready to provide health services of world standard.

IOL.CO.ZA, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Ravensmead health under bad management

Ravensmead residents say there are too few doctors at their local community health centre and this is resulting in patients being repeatedly turned away. Members of the Ravensmead health forum claim that bad management at the clinic and the Western Cape Health Department's reluctance to address the problems has left the facility in disarray. The Health Department has disputed that there is a shortage of doctors at the facility and said that there is two full-time doctors and one principal medical officer and the other a senior medical officer.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Medical waste man out on bail

The Welkom Magistrate's Court yesterday granted local businessman Gavin Brasher, who is linked to allegations of illegally dumping medical waste in the Free State, conditional bail of R50 000. Magistrate Magda van der Laan told Brasher to hand over his passport to the police investigator in the case and prohibited him from interfering with at least two state witnesses in the medical waste investigation. The matter was postponed to 7 April.

THE TIMES

PROVINCIAL NEWS

'Mpumalanga 2010 office not stripped of powers'

Mpumalanga Executive Mayor Lassy Chiwayo has denied strong rumours that he has stripped the province's 2010 World Cup office of its powers. Chiwayo reacted to a question regarding allegations of questions about the way the office is handling 2010 issues in the province. However, he has admitted that some changes in the 2010 office might be introduced, including some reshuffling. "One of the worst mistakes and weaknesses of the management of 2010 is that it has always been run from one office literally by an individual and it can not be reduced to that extent. We are going to beef up the structure and that has to do more with the reality that has dawned - that we are left with a few months. Beefing up is increasing the capacity, it should not surprise you if there is reshuffling, that is definitely not what is on our cards at the moment, but we just saying it would not be a crime if there was anything like that [sic]," says Chiwayo.

SABCNEWS.COM

New 2010 stadium in Pietermaritzburg

KwaZulu-Natal has unveiled another multimillion-rand stadium to show its readiness for the 2010 World Cup, notes a report in The Sowetan. It was the Harry Gwala Stadium in the capital city Pietermaritzburg. The newly-built state-of-the-art facility has been constructed to the tune of R85 million from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, with contributions from the Umgungundlovu district and Umsunduzi local municipalities.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Man killed, Carlisle was depended on

Western Cape Transport MEC Robin Carlisle says he will carry the words of a grieving widow to his grave after she berated him for not protecting her slain taxi driver husband. A day before Leonard Benjamin was gunned down in his vehicle, Carlisle had promised the frightened man who had phoned the MEC after receiving death threats that he would do everything in his power to keep him safe, but at 06:30 Tuesday morning, Benjamin, who belonged to the Retreat Taxi Association, was killed in Vrygrond. Rosemary Benjamin told Carlisle just hours after the killing: "He depended on you." Carlisle has now threatened to hire private investigators to track down Benjamin's killer if the police cannot do so.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

The city develops and extends sites in cemeteries

The City of Cape Town has developed and extended some sites and earmarked others across Cape Town in a bid to address the shortage of space at its cemeteries. Susan Brice, the city's cemetery co-ordinator said that in recent years the shortage had become a serious concern.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

TMNP caught those causing cleansing fires

Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) rangers have finally caught three members of a religious group believed to be responsible for several fires and environmental damage in the Newlands forest. TMNP area manager Paddy Gordon said that while all religious groups were welcome in the forest, fires were not allowed. Gordon believes that the fires are part of a cleansing ceremony.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Authorities resume with crackdown on abortionists

Durban authorities have promised to resume with their crackdown on illegal backstreet abortionists. Hoosen Moola, the Acting Manager of the Inner-eThekweni Regeneration and Urban Management Programme (iTrump), said that landlords need to get rid of illegal abortionists who rented property from them. Moola added that a landlord who permitted illegal activities on his premises also run the risk of having his property forfeited.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

KZN mortuary services to adhere to burial rule

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo said that KZN mortuary services would adhere to a strict 30-day burial rule to avoid a repeat of overcrowding at the Gale Street Mortuary in Durban. Dhlomo said that he had received a report stemming from an internal probe into what had caused the problems but it was difficult to pin the culprit. Dhlomo said that it appears staff had delayed the burials "out of fear and respect for the dead" in several cases in which bodies could not be identified and relatives could not be informed.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

Siyathemba 'calm for the moment'

The situation in Siyathemba reached uneasy equilibrium yesterday, with police keeping a watchful eye as groups of residents went about their business among piles of smouldering tyres. Police had again pelted protesters with rubber bullets on Tuesday, after a group of around 1 000 "irritated" protesters reacted badly to news that the local mayor had not tendered his resignation. Police have meanwhile been accused of targeting the family members of some of the community leaders spearheading the protests.

David Mafengeni, the father of a community leader involved in service-delivery protests told -The Times - he thought he was going to die when police allegedly repeatedly hit him in the face with the butt of a gun.

THE TIMES; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

EDUCATION NEWS

Complaints laid against Motshekga matric woes

Civil rights group Afri-Forum youth division has submitted a complaint against Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga to the Public Protector. The complaint was submitted in response to the "numerous examples of maladministration" of the 2009 matric results and the fact that the minister was not even prepared to listen to affect matrics' problems, it said yesterday. Afri-Forum claim to have been inundated with complaints from last year's matrics.

STAR

Rajack shocked over school stabbing

Sayed Rajack, Chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Parents' Association, reacted with shock to news that a 16-year-old pupil died on Tuesday after he was allegedly stabbed by a fellow pupil at the New West Secondary School in Durban. For years, education stakeholders, including the KZN Education Department, has attempted to address school security, and although a provincial school safety plan had been drawn up, pupils and teachers still believed they were sitting targets for criminals. KZN Education Department spokesperson, Mbali Thusi, said that "The truth of school safety is that there are no quick fixes".

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

Restorative justice in 'Reitz four' case starts

The five University of the Free State (UFS) workers who were victims of a racial incident at the university in 2007 are to be briefed by provincial legal authorities today. This, and a similar session on Tuesday for four inmates of the Reitz hostel who allegedly instigated the incident, kicks off a process of restorative justice, which could result in the dropping of crimen injuria charges against the students.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

More Zuma kids!

On the eve of President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation address, it has emerged that he has two daughters - aged 12 and seven - with a prominent Pietermaritzburg businesswoman. The latest child comes at the back of the controversy that flowed from the news that Zuma had fathered a baby in October with his lover, Sonono Khoza. While the president apologised on Saturday in the face of mounting criticism and heated debate about his morals and fitness to hold office, the latest revelation puts another damper on the Union Buildings' effort at damage control ahead of today's address. A presidential aide said yesterday there was "nothing new about (Nonkululeko) Mhlongo and her kids. They have are part of the 20 children and have always been".

STAR; PRETORIA NEWS; MERCURY

Social Development to conduct safety audit

The Department of Social Development will conduct a safety audit of all registered orphanages following Tuesday's fire in Newcastle which claimed 11 lives. According to Mandla Ngema, the spokesperson for the Social Development Department, the orphanage was registered with the department. Ngema added that the audit will commence within 24 hours. Director Bhékani Mswane, the Head of the Newcastle Community Services Department, said that a team of forensic experts from Pretoria was working to determine the cause of the fire.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

Legislation tabled to improve Post Office

Draft legislation has been tabled in Parliament to strengthen the corporate governance of the South African Post Office and to expand its mandate to include the use of information and communications technology infrastructure as well as the offering of services other than traditional postal services. The bill deals with the membership and workings of the board, the appointment of senior executives and the interventions that the communications minister may undertake if the enterprise is being mismanaged or is in financial difficulty.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Zuma doing a good job

Most South Africans believe President Jacob Zuma is doing a good job, a survey has found. The Ipsos Markinor poll, released yesterday, found that 77% of South Africans felt Zuma was doing his job well and 70% felt the government as a whole was performing well. The poll of 3 374 people was conducted in November, ahead of a furore over revelations that Zuma had fathered a child out of wedlock.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

State's workers fund joint casualty list

Parliament's standing committee on public accounts (Scopa) was up in arms yesterday over the tardiness of the R4 billion-a-year Compensation Fund in dealing with its poor management after four successive years of auditor-general declaimer. Weak internal controls have created an environment in which fraud and corruption can flourish with several members of staff arrested in the past month for allegedly colluding with medical practitioners to siphon R25 million from the fund. The fund has joined a growing list of dysfunctional state entities.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Home Affairs staffing and sick leave chaos

Home Affairs is not only "critically" understaffed, but its employees take what Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma describes as "enormous and unexplained" sick leave. From April to August last year, Home Affairs staff took a total of 36 647 days, and average of 6 929 a month, Dlamini-Zuma said in answer to a question by Democratic Alliance (DA) Home Affairs spokesperson Juanita Terblanche. She said there was an "enormous, unexplained" increase in sick leave days in June, a month after she was appointed.

PRETORIA NEWS

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, senior management of embattled state-owned broadcast and signal distributor Sentech have been called before Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Communication to explain business decisions made by Sentech, including its involvement in a cable project on the west coast of Africa. Cellphone costs in South Africa are set to fall after Icasa yesterday approved a cut in the rate charged by the three main operators to connect calls between networks. MTN yesterday launched a content portal that will deliver the 2010 Soccer World Cup action to customers via their mobile handsets. Half the licensed products for the Soccer World Cup were being manufactured by South African enterprises, FIFA's licensing company said yesterday.

NEWS REVIEWS

Recovery in labour sector to take months- Solidarity

The trade union Solidarity on Monday warned that the latest unemployment survey for the fourth quarter of 2009 that was released by Statistics South Africa does not mean that the labour sector will immediately have better prospects. Although the survey shows that 89 000 net new jobs were created in the past quarter, the number of discouraged jobseekers actually cancels out the progress made in the sector. The number of discouraged jobseekers has increased by 54 000 in the past quarter. "Unemployment levels in South Africa have now merely stagnated, but it doesn't mean that thousands of new job opportunities will soon arise," explained Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans. "In addition, the jobs created for this year's Soccer World Cup are not at all sustainable in the long-term, and job creation at this level cannot be regarded as progress."

NEWS REVIEWS

FIFA licensees buying local for World Cup

Half the licensed products for the Soccer World Cup were being manufactured by South African enterprises, FIFA's licensing company said yesterday. "We have appointed 38 South African-based licensees, which account for 128 different official licensed products and product categories," Global Brands' Paul Zacks said. His comments followed claims by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) that Bafana Bafana supporter apparel was being made overseas. Of the 38 local companies licensed, 11 had their operations in SA.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Cipro deal to boost SMMEs

Thousands of South Africa's emerging young entrepreneurs are set to benefit from a new partnership between the National Youth Development Agency (Nyda) and the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (Cipro). In the past, average of 500 new entrepreneurs had to wait for close to two months before obtaining registration certificates, and this often resulted in them losing business opportunities. Speaking in Midrand yesterday, where a memorandum of understanding between the youth agency and Cipro was signed, Daniel van Vuuren, Nyda's Director for delivery channels, said the partnership was designed in the "spirit of co-operative governance" aimed at assisting the youth participation in the economy.

TIMES, THE Business Times

CEO of directors institute resigns

CEO of the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa Lindie Engelbrecht announced her resignation yesterday, citing a desire to spend more time with her family. She would continue to fulfil her responsibilities until a successor was found.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Vodacom buys out odd-lot shareholders

Vodacom has offered to buy out its more than 86 000 "odd lot" shareholders, at R56.61 per share. In a statement, the company explains that, following the unbundling by Telkom of its remaining 35% shareholding in Vodacom in May 2009, Vodacom acquired a significant shareholder base, which includes a number of small minority shareholders holding less than 500 Vodacom shares each.

In order to facilitate an inexpensive method for minority shareholders to realise their investment in Vodacom where they receive an offer price at a premium per Vodacom share and do not have to incur transaction costs, the directors are proposing the implementation of an odd-lot offer, as well as a specific offer to repurchase the shares of Vodacom shareholders holding from 100 to 500 shares.

IT-ONLINE.CO.ZA; BUSINESS REPORT (National); TIMES, THE Business Times

Icasa approves cut in interconnection rate

Cellphone costs in South Africa are set to fall after the Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) yesterday approved a cut in the rate charged by the three main operators to connect calls between networks. Vodacom, MTN and Cell C last month filed an agreement with Icasa proposing a cut in the peak interconnection rate from R1.25 to 89c on 1 March. After it was initially rejected, because it would have fixed the rate for three years, the operators submitted revised agreements, with no mention of the so-called "glide path" on Monday and Tuesday. With the approval of those proposals, the peak rate will fall on 1 March as planned.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, a report on managing the impact of the recession on the South African economy has produced a brutal picture of the government's failure to substantially roll back poverty; President Jacob Zuma will indicate a change in industrial policy in his State of the Nation address, but leave an announcement on monetary policy to the National Treasury; and the South African stock market has nothing to be concerned about at a time that other debt markets are struggling to attract money. Last week foreigners made net purchases of R1.97 billion worth of bonds. Finally, more than half of respondents polled by South Africa's online guide to money, Justmoney.co.za, have never switched banks. Those who have done so did, did so mainly because they were unhappy with the service.

NEWS REVIEWS

Tax relief only for low incomes

Government, pressured by falling revenues and exploding expenditure, would still be forced by politics to make a token gesture towards individuals with a tiny amount of relief for fiscal drag in next week's budget, economists said. Fiscal drag is the effect of inflation pushing incomes into higher tax brackets, thus eroding real disposable income. Efficient Group economist Dawie Roodt predicted Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would provide the paltry sum of R3 billion for personal income tax relief in next week's budget. This compares with a much larger sum of R13.6 billion provided for in the 2009/10 budget. Roodt said the R3 billion would be concentrated on relief "right at the bottom end" and that there would be "virtually no relief, if [any] at all" at the top end of the income spectrum.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

'Time to look offshore'

Over the last few years, betting against the rand has proven to be unprofitable for investors who sought hard currency exposure. However, it may be the right time now to revisit this part of your portfolio. "It is natural diversification," Peter Bourne, MD of asset management firm Ashburton said. Recent statistics from the Association for Savings and Investment (Asisa) showed South African investors did not take a keen interest in offshore opportunities in 2009. As at 31 December 2009, total assets under management in locally registered foreign funds stood at R108 billion, down from the R114 billion reported at the end of 2008. In comparison, investment in local unit trusts and investment schemes came in at R786 billion by the end of 2009.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SA still living with legacy of poverty

A report on managing the impact of the recession on the South African economy has produced a brutal picture of the government's failure to substantially roll back poverty. The report, titled 'Recession and recovery', was produced by the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in its annual 2009 Transformation Audit. It came with a frank admission by presidential economist Vusi Gumede that poverty levels remained persistently high. The government appears to be battling to come to terms with poverty, with Gumede suggesting that the government and its social partners - business and labour - should be "sharpening" the anti-poverty implementation plan. The report notes that the rapid expansion of social assistance grants over the past 15-years :has made a significant contribution to reducing poverty but has done little to reduce inequality.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Budget likely to bring little relief - Nedbank

There would be little tax relief in this year's budget, Nedbank Group economists said yesterday. "Personal income tax relief will be limited with individuals being at least partially compensated for bracket creep or the effects of inflation," Nedbank said. The circumstances could hardly be tougher with government finances under significant pressure following the rapid deterioration in the global and local economic climate in 2008 and last year. Nedbank said that inflation had moderated over the past year and this meant tax relief for individual taxpayers was likely to be much less than the R13.6 billion granted last year. However, low- and middle-income taxpayers were likely to get more relief than high-income earners.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star) ; BUSINESS DAY (National)

Foreigners still buying in SA

The South African stock market has nothing to be concerned about at a time that other debt markets are struggling to attract money. Last week foreigners made net purchases of R1.97 billion worth of bonds. Last year they took up almost R24 billion worth. The recent purchases came amid serious concern about the sovereign indebtedness of the so-called PIGS countries (Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain), which has led to the flight of investments to emerging markets. This is thanks to emerging markets' good balance sheets relative to those of their larger counterparts. In the past the crises involved the developing countries, but this time many of the emerging countries are well positioned to grow, reckons Atlantic Asset Management analyst Albert Botha.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SA bank 'phishing' escalates

The number of schemes to fraudulently obtain confidential information from internet banking users has grown, the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC) said on Tuesday. "Banking industry data managed by SABRIC shows that the number of 'phishing' websites targeting local bank clients that have been detected and shut by the banks have more than trebled in the last four months," SABRIC Chief Executive Officer Kalyani Pillay said in a statement. "This is really unprecedented and a clear sign of the extent of the onslaught," Pillay said. As fast as banks shut down 'phishing' websites to prevent more people from falling victim, the fraudsters behind them used the information they had already collected from their victims.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Sarb loses suit, draws flak

The South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) certainly met its match in the North Gauteng High Court in respect of its handling of a well-known businessman who had received amnesty for a foreign-exchange contravention. The Sarb's Executive General Manager of markets, Daniel Mminele, was sharply criticised by Judge Sulette Potterill. The lawsuit arose when the Johannesburg businessman, Magnus Heystek, a prominent figure in financial circles, returned home from a holiday on 3 January 2005. When he tried to draw money, this was refused. Enquiries revealed that his bank accounts had been frozen on instruction from the Sarb, because the amnesty that he had received from the central bank some time before, for an inadvertent foreign exchange infringement, had been withdrawn.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

South African loyal to banks

More than half of respondents polled by South Africa's online guide to money, Justmoney.co.za, have never switched banks. Those who have done so did, did so mainly because they were unhappy with the service. Two-thirds of those who switched banks cited poor service. Other reasons for switching were greater convenience and lower bank charges.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

In the news this morning, International Olympic Committee officials on Tuesday warned would-be dope cheats that they will be uncovered, even if it takes nearly eight years of advances in dope testing to reveal their shame; the Sharks will go to court to settle a dispute with the Lions over the contracts of Willem Alberts and Louis Ludik; and Safa can breathe a little easier after settling a R3 million claim from their Chilean counterparts for breach of contract for R1.25 million - and remain on cordial terms with the South Americans in the process.

NEWS REVIEWS

Bok Sevens rethinking game plan

Springbok Sevens rugby coach Paul Treu has been rethinking his game plan on the eve of the Las Vegas tournament in the IRB Sevens World Series on Saturday and Sunday. The reason started with the Bok Sevens team eager to defend their IRB title, but three lost Plate finals in three tournaments have crushed those aspirations, and Treu admitted that what they tried to do in Wellington simply did not work well enough. "We've been struggling to score, despite dominating possession and territory in all our tournaments thus far. We're now thinking of playing a more direct game".

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Sharks take legal action

The Sharks will go to court to settle a dispute with the Lions over the contracts of Willem Alberts and Louis Ludik. South African Rugby Union (Saru) Judicial Officer Koos Basson yesterday declined to rule on the validity of the contracts, and Sharks CEO Brian van Zyl said that he will seek an urgent ruling from the court. Van Zyl said that he hopes to take the matter to court tomorrow to allow the players to participate in the Super 14 competition, which sees the Sharks play the Chiefs in Durban on Saturday night.

WITNESS, Sport

Wounded Lions roar past Titans

It has not been an easy week for the Highveld Lions. In fact, it has not been an easy year for them: an ugly spat with Cricket South Africa, a dysfunctional board and a few days ago they summarily sacked one of the most respected captains in the business. Adversity does strange things to a team, and last night they won the Standard Bank Pro20 Gauteng derby at a canter. Having restricted the Titans to 145/5, the recently deposed skipper Neil McKenzie tore into Basheer Walters with a fury. He smashed him through mid-wicket for four, scooped him over square leg for six, clipped a four off his legs and then edged a four past Heino Khun, scoring 19 off the first over.

PRETORIA NEWS

Corrie expects 'turner' to help India

Corrie van Zyl knows the road from now on will get harder, but will it be as hard as the last time South Africa were in 2008? On that occasion, they were also 1-0 in the series and went to Kanpur to find a broken pitch on which they lost the third Test in three days. After that match, the ICC gave the Board of Control for Cricket in India a slap on the wrist for the generally poor state of facilities at green park. The Indian board said it would take "corrective" measures.

PRETORIA NEWS

Safa settles contract debacle with Chile

The South African Football Association (Safa) can breathe a little easier after settling a R3 million claim from their Chilean counterparts for breach of contract for R1.25 million - and remain on cordial terms with the South Americans in the process. Details of the settlement were made known yesterday after what at one stage threatened to become an embarrassing legal expose of Safa's muddled organising relating to Bafana Bafana's failure to honour a return game against Chile early next month.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.7210	(-0.0383)
Rand - Sterling £	12.0316	(-0.0097)
Rand - Euro €	10.5654	(+0.0075)
JSE Allshare	26359.2	(-95.93)
Gold	1069.5	(-1.75)
Platinum	1511.0	(+15.00)
Brent Crude Oil	71.9	(-0.27)

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

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	18	(28)
Cape Town	18	(28)
Durban	21	(27)
East London	18	(26)
Johannesburg	13	(29)
Kimberley	19	(32)
Mafikeng	15	(31)
Nelspruit	18	(29)
Pietermaritzburg	18	(28)
Polokwane	14	(28)
Port Elizabeth	19	(28)
Pretoria	16	(31)