

THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, the controversial issue of pegging the value of the rand is still on the table after Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane's statement to the media that the "debate is ongoing" and the assertion that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would soon pronounce the matter; a damning forensic report has found that Johannesburg City Parks awarded multimillion-rand tenders to companies owned by friends of the department's Managing Director, Luther Williamson, and his wife; and kwaito star Mandoza has been released from hospital after crashing a car - which he allegedly did not have permission to drive - following a reported tiff with his wife.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: DA leader Helen Zille yesterday described Western Cape Community Safety MEC Lennit Max's alleged extramarital affairs as a "private" matter and denied reports that he would face an internal investigation for sexual harassment. Kwaito star Mandoza was involved in yet another accident when he allegedly crashed a friend's Mini Cooper S into a tree. The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Tourism are expected to launch a wide-ranging investigation of the way airlines publish their airfares, and if they are found to be lacking in transparency they face the possibility of regulation.

NEWS REVIEWS

2010 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Broadband on government agenda

President Jacob Zuma has committed the government to reducing the cost of communications. In last week's State of the Nation address, Zuma said the South African public can look forward to an even further reduction of broadband, cellphone, landline and public phone rates. "We will work to increase broadband speed and ensure a high standard of internet service, in line with international norms," he told a joint sitting of Parliament. The President also pledged R846 billion on public infrastructure, which would include ensuring a reliable power supply.

IT-ONLINE.CO.ZA

ANC: Zuma 'deliberately sketchy'

African National Congress (ANC) leaders have jumped to President Jacob Zuma's defence after his State of the Nation address was criticised for being uninspiring and thin on details. Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said that individual ministers would flesh out the specifics at a later stage. ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe also argued that the speech was intended to be simple, and to provide a broad picture of government's work for the year. Zuma used the occasion on Thursday, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's release from Victor Verster prison, to declare 2010 a year where government would be doing business faster, harder and smarter. However, analysts and opposition parties said the speech lacked definitive details.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

High-level committee working on 20-year energy vision

An inter-Ministerial committee on energy has been created to develop a 20-year integrated resource plan (IRP) for new generation capacity for power-stressed South Africa, President Jacob Zuma reported in his State of the Nation address to a joint sitting of both houses of Parliament in Cape Town on Thursday night. The committee would also look at the participation of independent power producers (IPPs), and protecting the poor from rising electricity prices. Eskom had submitted an application for tariff increases of 35% a year between 2010 and 2013, and the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) would make a determination on this application on 24 February. "We will establish an independent system operator (ISO), separate from Eskom Holdings," Zuma also promised.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA

BACSA applauds 'year of action'

Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) on Thursday applauded President Jacob Zuma's pledge for a year of action in 2010, in his second State of the Nation address. "BACSA supports the prioritisation of crimes such as hijacking, business and house robberies, as well as contact crimes such as murder, rape and assault," Chief Executive Graham Wright said. "The recent vigour with which the fight against crime has been tackled by government is beginning to show some results." BACSA hoped the "commitment to action" would see a sustained and significant reduction in serious and violent crimes. The organisation supported the government's programme to improve the criminal justice system, reduce blockages in service delivery and create a performance-oriented public service culture.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

POLITICAL NEWS

DA would sell off non-performing parastatals

Should a Democratic Alliance (DA) government be in power, it would sell off non-performing parastatals such as South African Airways (SAA) and Denel to the private sector, raising billions for the fiscus and saving billions more in bail-outs that would no longer be required. Briefing the media on the DA's alternative budget, finance spokesperson Dion George and his national leader, Helen Zille, sharply criticised the "developmental state" model of the ruling African National Congress (ANC). They would instead opt for an equal opportunity state that promoted incentive and competition.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Report to be presented to Sutcliffe

A report on procedures followed in commissioning R1.5 million in elephant sculptures, is expected to be presented to eThekweni Municipal Manager Michael Sutcliffe. Work on the three elephants ground to a halt, apparently after African National Congress (ANC) politicians in the council objected that they were a symbol of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). The reasons given by Sutcliffe and ANC Chairperson in the eThekweni region, John Mchunu to have work on the sculptures stopped - is that the project was never discussed by or approved by the council.

MERCURY

Sadesmo holds prayer meeting for KaMagwaza-Msibi

A defiant bid by the Inkatha Freedom Party's (IFP's) youth organisation to have Zanele kaMagwaza Msibi, the party's National Chairperson appointed party president resumed yesterday. The South African Democratic Students' Movement (Sadesmo) held a prayer meeting in her honour at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Indumiso campus in Imbali. Velani Shazi, Chairperson of Sadesmo and the Convenor of the prayer meeting, said that it had organised the meeting to pray for Kamagwaza-Msibi's continued good health in the hope she will be appointed the party president at the national conference to be held in May.

WITNESS

IFP a force to be reckoned with

Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) President Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said in his address at an IFP rally held in Qhuden, that the party is still a force to be reckoned with despite its loss of support in last year's elections. Buthelezi slammed the African National Congress (ANC) for renegeing on its promises. "We still pose a credible challenge to those who are failing our people and we still have hundreds of thousands of South Africans backing us and calling on us to make a change," said Buthelezi.

WITNESS

The DA wants women to wait to have children

Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Helen Zille yesterday called for state incentives to encourage young women to wait to have children until after they had completed their higher education. She said this could take the form of converting study loans to grants for female students who delayed parenthood until after they had completed university degrees. She made the proposal at a briefing where the DA tabled its alternative budget three days before Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan was due to unveil his first Budget in Parliament.

CAPE TIMES

MEC's extramarital affair 'private'

Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Helen Zille yesterday described Western Cape Community Safety MEC Lennit Max's alleged extramarital affairs as a "private" matter and denied reports that he would face an internal investigation for sexual harassment. "An extramarital affair between consenting adults in private is not a matter that can be regulated by a political party, the state or the media," Zille said in a statement. Zille said there was no allegation of sexual harassment in the scandal that had hit the DA while President Jacob Zuma weathers a storm over his love child with the daughter of soccer tycoon Irvin Khoza.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); THE TIMES

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

World Cup visitors warned against shelter fraud

The Southern African Fraud Prevention Service has warned overseas visitors to the 2010 World Cup spectacle to ensure that they deal with reputable organisations when booking accommodation. This after complaints that unscrupulous people were using open websites to solicit money from unsuspecting tourists. "We are receiving an increasing number of complaints from individuals overseas who have booked accommodation on open websites in South Africa for the FIFA 2010 World Cup, only to find that after the deposit has been paid, the 'lessor' disappears from view, together with the deposit," the body's Executive Director, Pat Cunningham, said. He said that although the accommodation advance fee fraud was fairly common, there has been a marked increase in complaints.

SOWETAN (Late Final)

World Cup drives cyber crime

Symantec has rolled out a security initiative to educate online users around cyber crime threats exploiting the 2010 World Cup. Grant Brown, Symantec security specialist, says the Symantec 2010 NetThreat website is a proactive measure to build an information platform for online community members to interact with one another, as well as with security experts. Brown points out, "Web-based attacks such as Trojans, botnets, phishing attempts and spam are going to significantly increase this year, but what will make these attacks different is that more of these attacks will have a 2010 World Cup theme to them." Increased broadband capacity, coupled with the tough economic climate, will have serious implications from a threat point of view to South African users, explains Brown. "What we are going to see is an increase in fraudulent ticketing sales, promising cheaper tickets, as well as malware-infected Web sites providing general information about the World Cup."

ITWEB.CO.ZA, SAGOODNEWS.CO.ZA

Minister to table legislation

Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa said in his address to the Klaarwater community, that he will soon present legislation that aim to tighten the management and issuing of gun licences to the security industry. Mthethwa had been briefing the community about the Operation Leth' Umshini wakho campaign - a campaign aimed to encourage people to hand over their guns to authorities. Mthethwa said that a new private security industry had been appointed to run the industry's operations.

MERCURY

Bar wants to hear on Mpshe

The General Council of the Bar expects to hear from the Justice Ministry soon on its complaint over the appointment of Mokotedi Mpshe as an acting judge in the North West High Court. "The Minister, Jeff Radebe, said they would be responding to us," council Chairperson Patric Matshaulana said on Friday. The bar, the lobby group Freedom Under Law and SA Institute for Race Relations says public servant should not also be judge. Mpshe is Deputy Director of public prosecution, but has temporarily detached from that post without pay for six months.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Action plan to fund industry, aid job creation

An industrial policy action plan adopted by the Cabinet last week hold the key to President Jacob Zuma's plan of funding specific sectors that will create the jobs he promised. Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said at the weekend that measures to facilitate the industrial financing of job creating sectors identified by the state were included in the "high impact" industrial policy action plan. Davies will address the media about the plan on Thursday, when details of the sectors the government wants to promote will be revealed.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Call for Sisulu to change attitude

Members of the armed forces said that Defence and Military Veterans Minister Lindiwe Sisulu should alter her attitude towards unions in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and improve the working conditions of soldiers to avoid protest action. This was one of the resolutions adopted by the three-day congress of the South African Security Forces Union (Sasfu), which ended in Durban yesterday. The union said that it would embark on nationwide protest action to compel Sisulu to realise that unions were imperative stakeholders in the defence force.

MERCURY

NEWS BRIEF

2010 World Cup to honour Madiba

President Jacob Zuma on Thursday called on South Africans to host a successful 2010 World Cup in honour of Nelson Mandela, as the country celebrated his 20th anniversary of freedom. "President Mandela was central in assisting the country to win the rights to host this great event. We therefore have to make the World Cup a huge success in his honour," Zuma told the opening of Parliament where Mandela was present. SA's first democratic leader Mandela (91) made a rare public appearance at Zuma's speech which was rescheduled to mark his release from 27 years in imprisonment. "The hosting of the FIFA World Cup makes 2010 truly a year of action. We have spent many years planning for this World Cup. We have only three months to go. And we are determined to make a success of it," said Zuma.

SPORT24.CO.ZA, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Jordaan pays tribute to Mandela

Danny Jordaan, CEO of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), on Thursday paid tribute to Nelson Mandela and the role he played in securing the right to host the World Cup. Mandela was part of the delegation that presented South Africa's bid to the FIFA executive in 2004 and was present on 15 May 2004, when FIFA President Joseph Blatter announced that SA had won the bid to host the World Cup. "Who will ever forget the images of him grasping the Fifa World Cup Trophy as they were beamed around the world? It is thanks to Mandela and his comrades that we as South Africans could even dare to dream about hosting the world's biggest tournament. It is also thanks to him that the world could finally trust us to deliver this event at a world-class level," Jordaan said.

PRETORIA NEWS

Govt employees need to decolonise minds

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize said in his address at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Pietermaritzburg campus during a lecture on the 20th anniversary of the release of former president Nelson Mandela, that government employees' need to decolonise their minds. Mkhize said that some employees neglect black people and prefer to serve whites. Mkhize said that such employees still work under the apartheid myth that white people are superior to blacks.

WITNESS

Blatter commemorates Mandela's release

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has compiled a video message regarding the 20 years since the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. In his message, Blatter spoke about celebrating a special day in the history of South Africa, saying there was no greater symbol of Africa's humanity than Mandela and what he stands for. Blatter praised Mandela for giving more than his share to the country and continent; dedicating his life to the endorsement of human rights and democracy; and leading the fight for freedom for all mankind. "In this same spirit your young nation will deliver a great tournament with determination and dignity this year," said Blatter. "I still remember you telling me about how inspirational the 2010 FIFA World Cup is for you and what 2010 means for you and your country. We trust that the FIFA World Cup will contribute to the legacy that you wanted for your country."

MEDIAUPDATE.CO.ZA

Mandoza car-crash trouble

Kwaito star Mandoza has been released from hospital after crashing a car - which he allegedly didn't have permission to drive - following a tiff with his wife. Mandoza, whose real name is Mduduzi Tshabalala, was discharged from hospital after being treated for a head injury, Department of Health spokesperson Mandla Sidu said. He was driving in the fast lane on the busy JG Strijdom Road in Weltevreden Park, Roodepoort, when he lost control of a Mini Cooper S. He mounted the kerb before smashing into a palm tree alongside the road.

The Citizen meanwhile reports the kwaito singer is fighting for his life. According to the newspaper, an ER spokesperson told them Mandoza has a gash "the size of a man's fist" on his head.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Converted panel van taxis 'unsafe'

All minibus taxis converted from Toyota Quantum panel vans are unfit to carry passengers, Western Cape Transport MEC Robin Carlisle said yesterday. The panel vans could be a safety risk because their floor were not thick enough, the seat anchorage was too flimsy and there was no roll over the protection bars. Commuters were warned not to use the converted vans. A total of 44 such vans had been converted into taxis in the Western Cape. Carlisle has written to Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele about the matter. Toyota was not available for comment.

STAR

Fire destroys resort company's head office

A fire has gutted the head office of Rani Resort in Juskei Park, Randburg, causing millions of rand's damage. The group is the owner of a number of resort and hotels, including the Stanley and Livingstone Hotel in Zimbabwe and Paradise Island in Mozambique, where the current instalment of Survivor South Africa was shot. Security staff at the business complex said they saw a fire break out in the corner of the building at about 03:30 and called the fire brigade. "Twenty-five fire-fighters from four stations battled the inferno in an area covering 600 square metres for an hour-and-half," said Johannesburg emergency spokesperson Percy Morokane. Preliminary investigations indicate that the fire may have been started by an electrical problem.

STAR

Launch of pro-democracy for Swaziland

Over 40 groups from South Africa and Swaziland are mobilising for what activists promise will be a "watershed moment" in the struggle for democracy in Africa's last absolute monarchy. The Swaziland Democracy Campaign (SDC) launches in Johannesburg next Sunday, as Swaziland's pro-democracy groups officially partner with South African non-governmental organisations and trade unions for the first time "to accelerate global momentum" for change.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Another taxi strike is looming

The announcement made by the City of Johannesburg about plans to complete the full phase 1A of the controversial Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, does not sit well with some in the taxi industry who have already warned of a nationwide taxi industry strike. The city announced last week that the final stage of the phase 1A service would be introduced by 3 May, and it would include complementary services from Dobsonville to Maponya Mall in Soweto, and other areas in the township. United Taxi Association Forum (Utaf) spokesperson Ralf Jones said the city had never consulted the taxi industry prior to its announcement last week. "Therefore we have decided to go on strike, and our legal team is currently busy with the process of getting a certificate," said Jones.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

HEALTH NEWS

Freebies at fan Parks

Food and alcohol will not be allowed at 2010 World Cup fan parks. However, if you show up, you will get freebies - condoms and sex education leaflets - that will be handed out. This is a part of the Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development's massive safe sex campaign to coincide with the tournament. Department spokesperson Mandla Sidu said on Thursday, "The campaign will focus on educating people about safe sex and the role played by alcohol and drugs in the spread of HIV/Aids. Soccer stars and the South African Professional Football Union will be approached to form part of the education drive to reach as many people as possible during the World Cup and beyond. The entertainment industry will also be targeted with closer focus on bars, clubs, hotels, brothels, fan parks as well as park and ride facilities," Sidu said.

SOWETAN (Late Final)

Soccer stars in safe sex campaign

Local soccer stars are to be used in a massive safe sex campaign launched by the Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development for the 2010 World Cup. The department is to approach the soccer stars and the South African Professional Football Union to get involved in a drive to reach as many people as possible about HIV and Aids during the World Cup and beyond. "The department said that the abuse of alcohol and drugs were contributing factors to unsafe sex practices and the province took an initiative to undertake a campaign to highlight these issues. The entertainment industry will also be targeted with closer focus on bars, clubs, hotels, fan parks as well as park-and-ride facilities," the department said. This decision was taken during a meeting with members of the mayoral committee responsible for health, social development and emergency medical care on Tuesday.

ALLAFRICA.COM - ALL AFRICA MEDIA

Operating theatres at King Edward open

Operating theatres at Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital are open again after technicians fixed faulty air conditioning. A doctor who wishes to remain anonymous, said that the hospital should be performing operations at normal capacity once the backlogs had been removed by early next week. Democratic Alliance (DA) MP John Steenhuisen, in a letter to the newspaper, slammed the failure in service delivery at the hospital, saying it was unbelievable that six operating theatres had been closed because of a broken air-conditioning unit.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

NHI to remain at discussion stage - Deloitte

Tax experts at Deloitte said last week that the National Health Insurance (NHI) was likely to remain at the dialogue stage, as questions around whether it would work had not yet been resolved. A proposed social security system might also not be launched this year, as the government was tied up in terms of expenditure. The NHI, expected to save the country about R9 billion in non-healthcare costs, is to be a universal medical cover for all citizens and would be phased in over a five-year period.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

National health plan 'may cost extra R244 billion'

A new study commissioned by private hospitals has cast doubt on the African National Congress's (ANC's) proposals for national health insurance (NHI), raising tough questions about its affordability and feasibility. Research by the Econex consultancy group shows the government will have to come up with an extra R165 billion - R244 billion a year, over and above the money it already spends on public health. In the fiscal year 2008-2009, the government's health budget ran to R84 billion. "It's fiscally affordable," said Econex economist Marine Erasmus. "We have a very small tax base, and the demand for healthcare is very high because of our disease burden".

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Air ambulance used for soccer

Eight officials in the Eastern Cape Health Department have been suspended after allegations which include using an air ambulance to attend a soccer match, a spokesperson said on Friday. "The suspended officials include provincial operations manager, three heads of ambulance centres, a secretary, two emergency fleet managers, and a deputy manager of an ambulance centre," said Sizwe Kupelo.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Regulate HIV home testing

According to the South African Medical Association (Sama), the government should regulate the sale of HIV home-testing kits sold to private individuals. Chairperson Dr Norman Mabasa said that although Sama supported testing, it was not in favour of the adhoc sale of the kits. Sama wanted the government to ensure that the devices were distributed "responsibly", he said. He added that Sama wanted it be made compulsory for counselling to be available via the merchant when home-testing kits were sold.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Alleged 2010 hit list surfaces

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza has been challenged to respond publicly to the allegations of a hit list targeting those who may have evidence of corruption surrounding the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Local newspaper the Lowvelder claims the list, titled Operation Clean Up 2014, was faxed to it on Monday from a busy internet café after weeks of debate over whether it existed. On it are reportedly 10 names, including those of two victims - Mbombela municipal speaker Jimmy Mohlala, murdered on 4 January 2009; and sports, arts and culture spokesperson Sammy Mpatlanyane, shot dead on 8 January this year. The other eight names include Mbombela Mayor Lassy Chiwayo, who confirmed receiving death threats on his cellphone at about the time of Mohlala's murder; journalist Alfred Moselakgomo; politician Steven Ngubeni; lobbyist Godfrey Ntombela; and businessman Thabo Theledi.

MAIL & GUARDIAN, Friday

The City is forced to write off traffic fines

The City of Cape Town is forced to write off traffic fines every day because fraudsters duplicate existing number plates and use these on their own cars to break the law without getting caught. The city's traffic authorities say they cannot quantify the problem or say how much money it or Cape Town motorists are losing.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

KZN Dept provides emergency relief

KwaZulu-Natal's Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs has provided emergency relief to the municipalities of Ugu and uMzinyathi, following the heavy rains and strong winds that hit the areas on Saturday, leaving a trail of destruction. The department said that MEC Nomusa Dube organised the deployment of provincial disaster management teams to provide food, blankets and tents to families left homeless by the storm. Dube has called on those who encountered losses to contact their municipalities and the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

WITNESS

Thousands allocated for feasibility study

Sobantu residents who held a protest over the use of the Hollingwood site as a cemetery when the land was identified as a possible housing site for them have been given reprieve. The executive committee (Exco) of the Msunduzi Municipality has agreed to reallocate R500 000 into a feasibility study for a housing project to be situated next to the new Hollingwood cemetery. Deputy Municipal Manager for Development Services, Skhumbuzo Mpanza, said that once the study has been concluded, the project manager will apply to the Human Settlements Department for approval.

WITNESS

Msunduzi to increase sponsorship for Padsa

The Msunduzi Municipality is to increase its sponsorship for the Pietermaritzburg and District Soccer Association (Padsa) Easter Tournament. In a report presented by Marketing and Communications Manager Brian Zuma at Thursday's executive committee meeting, a request was made that the council fund the event with R500 000, an increase from last year's R400 000. Democratic Alliance (DA) Councillor Bill Lambert said that the amount should remain at R400 000.

WITNESS

Western Cape pulling the plug on funding NGOs

The Western Cape's decision to pull the plug on funding scores of non-governmental organisations because of budget constraints will short sight and will have severe repercussion for the province. Ann Brown, a consultant for NGOs and a member for the National Department of Social Development's Arbitration Panel for NGOs said that the loss of funding would hit the sector very hard. She said that there will be a backlash.

CAPE TIMES

City authorities planning to make Cape Town green

City authorities are thrashing out a plan to turn Cape Town green. The energy and climate change action plan incorporates 121 projects in about 50 programmes in the city council. It comes as part of a recent policy shift towards environmental sustainability. The plan applies to all the departments in the council.

CAPE TIMES

A new version of the Phoenicia sailing around the Cape

There is a new ship making its way around the Cape of Good Hope. It is a new version of an extremely old ship. The Phoenicia is based on a 2 000-year-old design and is being manned by 12 strong crew members. Philip Beale, the man leading the expedition intends to circumnavigate Africa in the Phoenicia. He is said that getting to Cape Town will not be a problem but getting around it, will be.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Athlone cooling towers to be demolished

The two cooling towers at the decommissioned Athlone power station in Cape Town will be demolished after a reinforcement ring around one structure collapsed early yesterday, the city said. The N2 was briefly closed as a precaution after the ring, fitted 18 years ago, crashed to the ground, alderman Clive Justus from the Mayoral Committee for Utilities said in a statement. He said that the landmark towers would be torn down as soon as the council had studied a report by engineers and put in place measures to ensure that municipal services were not disrupted. The tower site houses transformers for the transmission of electricity to southern suburbs and a system to coll the transformers. He said that the towers served no purpose as electricity generation on the site was stopped in 2002.

The Times reported that the decommissioned station, due for demolition for several years, poses environmental and safety risks to the city.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star), THE TIMES, CAPE TIMES

Three children drown at public swimming pools

It has emerged that three children drowned at public swimming pools run by the eThekweni Municipality in just five days. Questions have been raised into why City-employed staff at pools allowed children as young as nine to swim without adult supervision, despite regulations that stipulate a minimum age of 12 for a child to swim unaccompanied. Garth Kloppenborg, the municipality's Acting Deputy Head of Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries, said that three life guards were supposed to be on duty for each 14-hour shift.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

No proof of reconciliation of fines income

According to an internal audit report, there is no proof of the reconciliation of money received by the eThekweni Municipality in traffic fines and the amounts banked. The disappearance of receipt books means it will be difficult to verify how much was received and banked. The report reveals that the City could be losing out on millions of rands in revenue because of massive problems in the processing of fines by the metro police. The report also revealed that the metro police's cashiers collected between R3.9 million and R6.2 million a month, but there was inadequate control to secure and safeguard manual receipts.

MERCURY

Sanco vows to put pressure on city

The South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has promised to put pressure on the African National Congress (ANC)-led eThekweni Municipality, the KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements Department and the ANC in the region to expose corrupt officials and contractors who construct shoddy houses. The organisation has also launched an investigation into the tender process followed by the council in issuing housing contracts in the municipality. The move to put pressure on the City and the provincial government to show more transparency in providing houses to the poor comes in the wake of a raging controversy over substandard houses provided by construction companies.

MERCURY

Airlink flies between PE, Mthatha

SA Airlink is to introduce flights between Port Elizabeth and Mthatha airports on Fridays starting next week, Eastern Cape MEC for transport, safety and liaison Ghishma Barry said on Friday. She also announced that the temporary terminal building at Mthatha had been completed as the first phase of the R56 million upgrade of the airport.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

No favouritism in awarding tender

The KwaZulu-Natal legislature said that there was no favouritism in giving a multimillion-rand catering tender to Nonkululeko Mhlongo, mother of two of President Jacob Zuma's love-children. The legislature said that the awarding of the contract to Mhlongo's company, Bucebo General Trading, had been legit. "The contract was put on public tender and 53 bidders submitted proposals. The company (Mhlongo's) was selected ...using bid committees," said Songani Sibisi, the legislature's Chief Operations Officer.

MERCURY

Premier wants North West towns to pay up

Municipalities in the North West must immediately pay their water and electricity bills, Premier Maureen Modiselle said on Friday. The provincial government said Modiselle wanted municipalities to pay Eskom, Rand Water, Botshelo Water and Sedibeng Water "as a matter of urgency". This followed a meeting between the premier and the three boards and Eskom. SA Local Government Association Deputy Chairperson in the province, Maphetle Maphetle, said cash-flow problems were the main reason behind failure to make payments. "This goes back to the lack of payment by communities," he said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

EDUCATION NEWS

Second chance for matrics

More than 97 000 matrics are expected to write the Grade 12 supplementary examinations today, the Department of Basic Education said. Learners who failed two subjects in the November 2009 matric exams, who missed exams because of illness and who want to improve results to gain university entrance, will sit for the supplementary exams. The department added that it had taken over the administration of the supplementary examinations in the Mpumalanga province, where around 8 000 matriculants will sit.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); CAPE TIMES

Problems at DUT

Outgoing Durban University of Technology (DUT) Vice-Chancellor Prof Roy du Prè said that the constant changing of vice-chancellors showed that the institution had problems at its core. Du Prè said that university's inability to achieve stability is a cause for concern. Student Representative Council (SRC) President, Mfanafuthi Ngwabe, said that DUT had faced major challenges, but a new vice-chancellor would not resolve the problems unless changes were made at other levels.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Zuma a 'confident liar'

Cope Youth Movement has branded President Jacob Zuma a "confident liar" after he announced in his State of the Nation address that 480 000 jobs had been created last year. "This we know is devoid of any truth and we believe the president can only be categorised as a confident liar who does it with a smile," the Congress of the People youth wing said on Friday. "He presented an unbalanced, shameful speech with concocted facts." It said the president's "shocking distortion" of his own 2009 State of the Nation address on the promise of 500 000 jobs was not a mistake. "He said government planned to create about 500 000 job opportunities and this made no reference to the expanded public works programme as Zuma said yesterday".

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Now airlines face probe of 'hidden' fares

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Tourism are expected to launch a wide-ranging investigation of the way airlines publish their airfares, and if they are found to be lacking in transparency they face the possibility of regulation. The probe, to be announced by Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies in the next two weeks, is believed to focus mainly on fuel surcharges and other airline charges. The airport taxes passengers pay include up to seven regulated and non-regulated charges.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SA to buy more power from private producers

South Africa will buy more power from private producers as a lack of generating capacity at Eskom Holdings threatens to plunge Africa's largest economy into darkness. "There is scope for a minimum of 105" produced by companies other than Eskom, Collins Chabane, a minister in charge of performance monitoring for President Jacob Zuma, said. "We don't think it should take us more than three years to finalise." SA risks a return to power shortages as the economy recovers. Mines in the nation, the world's largest producer of platinum, manganese and chrome, were shut for says in 2008 as Eskom failed to keep up. On Thursday, Zuma said SA would set up a firm this year to buy power from non-State producers, rather than relying on Eskom to buy electricity from competitors. "It's basically impossible for Eskom to compete in that market and purchase power from rivals without conflict of interest," Cornelis van der Waal, an energy analyst at Frost & Sullivan, said on Friday.

CITIZEN, Citi Business

Premier issues warning

African National Congress (ANC) Provincial Chairperson and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize, in his address at the Nelson Mandela lecture at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Pietermaritzburg, warned that the battle for government contracts among ANC members could divide the ruling party, if not addressed properly. Mkhize slammed the conduct of some individuals in the ruling party, singling out opportunism and the battle for positions as the major problems that face the ANC.

MERCURY

State to nationalise space satellite project

The government is planning to nationalise the space satellite programme developed by scientists at the University of Stellenbosch. The Cabinet last week approved in principle a plan for the state to acquire an equity share of between 55% and 60% in Sunspace in order to retain South Africa's national space capabilities, according to Cabinet spokesperson Themba Maseko. The company was set up by Sias Mostert and his colleagues at the university after they successfully established a satellite development research programme.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Body to monitor relief to Haiti

Future humanitarian relief sent to Haiti will be co-ordinated through a new committee set up by the Department of International Relations, the department said yesterday. The committee will be launching a province based campaign to raise money and donations for the benefit of Haiti "to be collected and shipped to reach Haiti on April 27, 2010 - South African Freedom Day", says a statement by the department. The committee will be headed by the department Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, former Vodacom CEO Alan Knott-Craig has defended a reported agreement he has with the cellular provider, but said he was being paid "significantly less than half" the R1 million a month that reports yesterday said he was earning. Cellphone users will have to wait a bit longer before seeing benefits of the reduction of interconnection costs due to the complex relationship between interconnection fees and retail prices. Aspen on Friday closed 4.48% higher at R70 after advising shareholders that earnings per share and headline earnings per share for the six months to December were expected to exceed those reported for the same period in 2008 by between 20% and 30%. South African business leaders have started the new year in their most optimistic mood in the two years since the global financial crisis began.

NEWS REVIEWS

Business optimistic, not euphoric

South African business leaders have started the new year in their most optimistic mood in the two years since the global financial crisis began. "Business is cautiously optimistic rather than euphoric," says Leonard Brehm, National Chairperson of accounting firm Grant Thornton. "The economy is still a long way from normal but things are starting to look up for business owners," Brehm says. Annually the firm carries out research on more than 7 400 privately held businesses across 36 economies. Although the economy has not yet stabilised to market conditions prior to the financial crisis, there is still cause for optimism.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Labour chief to speak on hurdles to transformation

Transformation and employment equity will come under the spotlight tomorrow when Department of Labour Director-General Jimmy Manyi speaks at the Pretoria News/TUT Intellectual Lecture Series. The lecture takes place at 18:00 in the Prestige Auditorium at the Tshwane University of Technology's campus in Pretoria West. The topic of the lecture will be "Overcoming hurdles that prevent transformation (especially affirmative action) from being implemented in the workplace in South Africa".

PRETORIA NEWS

Cellphone tariffs 'will not fall soon'

Cellphone users will have to wait a bit longer before seeing benefits of the reduction of interconnection costs due to the complex relationship between interconnection fees and retail prices. Allison Gillwald, Executive Director of Research ICT Africa, said it was unlikely for cellphone users to immediately see their fees fall significantly because "the way business is costed and, and the way the systems are operated will need time to be adjusted. We'll have to see how long it takes," she said. With the three major cellphone operators tight-lipped last week on how the savings from next month's interconnection rate cut would be passed on to consumers, analysts have warned that much more regulatory reform was needed for a meaningful fall in retail rates.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SA unhappy about cell costs

The majority of South Africans say cellphone costs are excessive, the results of a survey released on Friday by TNS Research Surveys show. The survey found 56% of metro adults said cellphone companies had not been charging a fair price for their services while 27% were satisfied with current rates. The remainder - around 13% - gave a "don't know" response. Younger people were more likely to agree that prices were fair than were older people (33% for those under the age of 49 years compared with just 19% for those over 60 years) - as were those in the lower to middle income groups. "The most critical are those in upper income groups," the survey said. The survey found there were also some differences by area, with West Rand and Durban people showing the highest level of dissent at 67% and 64% respectively.

NEWS REVIEWS; FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, a new study commissioned by private hospitals has cast doubt on the African National Congress's (ANC's) proposals for national health insurance (NHI), raising tough questions about its affordability and feasibility; the controversial issue of pegging the value of the rand is still on the table after Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane's statement to the media that the "debate is ongoing" and the assertion that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would soon pronounce on the matter; and clarity on economic policy rather than key forecasts is likely to grab the limelight when Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan unveils his maiden budget on Wednesday. Looking at business, First National Bank (FNB) has broken its silence on its possible launch of international payment gateway PayPal in South Africa.

NEWS REVIEWS

Markets look to Gordhan for clarity on rand

The controversial issue of pegging the value of the rand is still on the table after Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane's statement to the media that the "debate is ongoing" and the assertion that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would soon pronounce on the matter. Chabane said on Friday that Gordhan and Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies would soon detail plans to help "stabilise" the rand as part of broader measures to support growth and employment. There is widespread agreement that the currency's sustained strength may undermine South Africa's fragile economic recovery, but it would be difficult to set a level for the unit as it is driven by global trends.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SA 'may tax foreign investments'

South Africa may join Brazil in imposing a tax on short-term foreign-capital inflows when it delivers its budget this week, in order to prevent dramatic swings in the currency, according to BNP Paribas. Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan may unveil the measures when he delivers his budget speech on Wednesday, Elisabeth Gruie, a London-based emerging-markets currency strategist at BNP, wrote in a client note on Friday. The measures may take the form of a tax on foreign investments in South Africa's bond and equity markets, she said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Treasury bill discount unchanged

The average discount rate for South African three-month Treasury Bills was unchanged from the previous week's level at 7.08%, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The average yield was also steady at 7.21% and applications for the R3.7 billion of bills on offer totalled R5.35 billion. The average discount rate for six-month bills rose to 7.17% from 7.15%, while the average yield was at 7.44% from 7.41%.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Clarity sought amid conflicting signals

Clarity on economic policy rather than key forecasts is likely to grab the limelight when Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan unveils his maiden budget on Wednesday. This year's budget will be one of the most difficult in South Africa's history, given the onerous task of keeping a massive infrastructure spending programme in place and meeting political demands in the face of steep falls in tax revenue. If there are signs that prudent economic policy seen over the past decade is starting to unravel in the face of pressure for more populist spending initiatives, local markets could take a beating. If this is the case, global rating agencies could downgrade SA's hard-won investment grade credit rating, which could put even more pressure on state coffers.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Luxury splurge worries insurers

Wealthy consumers continued to spend on expensive items over the festive season, but insurance brokers are concerned about an apparent lack of funds available to commit to the maintenance of luxury assets. A number of luxury goods companies reported increases in revenue over the festive season, signalling a strong appetite for expensive goods such as designer clothing watches and jewellery.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

FNB admits PayPal talks

First National Bank (FNB) has broken its silence on its possible launch of international payment gateway PayPal in South Africa. Fin24.com reported last Monday FNB is considering the move, even though the financial services group refused to confirm or deny the rumours. However, in a brief statement on Thursday, head of corporate communications Virginia Magapatona confirmed FNB's interest in PayPal, which has over 300-million users worldwide. When the news broke on Monday, a number of Fin24.com readers expressed great excitement about the possible arrival of this technology. "As a small business owner who trades with individuals along the spectrum of the globe, it would open all sorts of new doors [for me]. It's about time we moved with the rest of the world," one said.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Call for extension of tax relief to small business

The government should use this week's national budget as a platform to extend relief to small businesses, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saica) said last week. Muneer Hassan, the project director of tax at Saica, called on Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan to go out of his way to do something for small business, "the backbone of the nation's economy". In particular, Gordhan needed to adjust small business corporations' maximum marginal tax rate for inflation, Hassan said. He added that a small business corporation, as defined in the Income Tax Act, was taxed according to a separate tax table, whereby the maximum marginal tax rate of 28% began at a taxable income of R300 000.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Foreigners sell R326 million in bonds

Foreigners were net sellers of R326.48 million of bonds, including repo transactions, on Thursday after net sales of R1.91 billion of local bonds on Wednesday, market statistics show. Nominal cumulative volume was R23.54 billion on Thursday from R39.34 billion on Wednesday.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Angolan bank to open in SA

Banco Africano de Investimentos, Angola's biggest bank by deposits, has said it will open an office in South Africa as part of its plan to start offering banking services in the country. The office will open on 1 March, CE Jose de Lima Massano said. The lender plans to start operating a full-service bank in the country in the future, he said.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Africa attracting SA's private equity funds

Private equity funds and companies may have struggled through the financial crisis but they were taking up opportunities in other African markets, said the head of Webber Wentzel's Africa Group, Roddy McKean. The South African industry had more than R800 billion of assets under management last year. Interviewed by telephone from the South African Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (Savca) conference in Cape Town last week, McKean said private equity funds globally had suffered from a lack of funding for their deals over the past recession because banks had tightened up lending criteria.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

South Africa will have to produce a bowling performance similar to the one which helped them win the first Test against India if they are to have any hope of salvaging a result in the second following their spectacular collapse on day one yesterday. The Proteas looked set for a massive score - and the possibility of only batting once - after Hashim Amla and Alviro Pettersen scored centuries to steer them to 218/2 at one stage. But a fantastic post-tea spell of bowling saw India take seven wickets to leave the tourists reeling at 266/9 at the close. It all likelihood, the Proteas will be dismissed early on the second day, whereafter it will be left to their bowlers to wrest the advantage from the Indians on a turning track. Paul Harris will be crucial role to SA's chances, while partnership-breaking part-time spinner JP Duminy could just be the ace up the Proteas' sleeve.

News Reviews

Bulls signal intentions

The Bulls got the defence of their Super 14 title off to an impressive start last Friday, running in six tries in a 51-34 victory over the Cheetahs in Bloemfontein.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Nervous start for Lions

The Lions opened their Super 14 campaign with a 26-13 defeat to the Stormers in Johannesburg on Saturday.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Proteas collapse after strong start

South Africa lost seven wickets in the final session to collapse to 266/9 at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against India in Kolkata yesterday. This after the Proteas made a promising start, reaching 218/2 at one stage, thanks to centuries from Hashim Amla and Alviro Petersen.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Spurs, Villa held in FA Cup fifth round

Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa were both held to draws in their respective FA Cup fifth round ties yesterday, while Fulham cruised through to the last eight with a 4-0 win over Notts County. Spurs were drew 1-1 with Bolton Wanderers, while, Aston Villa's tie against Crystal Palace finished 2-2. In Saturday's games, Manchester City and Stoke City drew 1-1, while the tie between Reading and West Bromwich Albion ended in a 2-2. Holders Chelsea beat Cardiff City 4-1, while fellow Premier League sides Portsmouth and Birmingham City also booked their spots in the last eight.

STAR, Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.6945	(-0.0429)
Rand - Sterling £	12.0511	(-0.1184)
Rand - Euro €	10.4915	(-0.0570)
JSE Allshare	26262.4	(-88.19)
Gold	1082.0	(+5.50)
Platinum	1505.0	(-6.00)
Brent Crude Oil	72.2	(-1.84)

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	(32)
Cape Town	16	(21)
Durban	22	(31)
East London	21	(35)
Johannesburg	17	(25)
Kimberley	18	(31)
Mafikeng	20	(25)
Nelspruit	19	(30)
Pietermaritzburg	19	(34)
Polokwane	20	(30)
Port Elizabeth	17	(34)
Pretoria	19	(27)