

## THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, opposition leaders yesterday launched an all-out assault on President Jacob Zuma, questioning his ability to lead; the government has said PetroSA's \$9 billion Project Mthombo is "on track"; the Minister for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities has called for people to leave the R91 million PowerBall winner and his family alone; and school children at an inter-schools athletics competition yesterday watched in terror as a gang of four gunned down a teenager as he played with his infant daughter.

NEWS REVIEWS

## THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: opposition leaders launched an all-out assault on President Jacob Zuma yesterday, questioning his ability to lead and tearing into his "weak" State of the Nation address. Zuma will respond to the debate today. Also in Parliament, ANC caucus has rubbished the Congress of the People (COPE) vote of no confidence motion against President Jacob Zuma. The Departments of Tourism and Trade and Industry are calling for an investigation into the transparency of airline pricing, after they were accused of fixing their prices. And a new twist in the Mandoza car accident has emerged as the tow-truck driver who was first to arrive at the scene states that the singer was found in the back seat.

NEWS REVIEWS

## TOP STORIES

### City corruption shock

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. The report, compiled by the forensics division of law firm Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs, and addressed to City Manager Mavela Dlamini, states that tenders for more than R117 million, involving "corruption and maladministration . on a large scale", were irregularly awarded by the department. The investigators report that they found that Williamson personally negotiated the purchase of City Parks' headquarters, in Braamfontein, for R12.8 million - 23 days after it was bought on auction for R2.24 million by a company belonging to a close associate. The report does not reveal whether Williamson or his wife personally benefited from the irregularly awarded tenders.

THE TIMES

### City Parks to ponder graft move

The board of directors of Johannesburg City Parks will decide what to do about claims of alleged corruption once it has received reports on the matter, the council's spokesperson Gabu Tugwana said yesterday. According to The Times, the department had award multimillion-rands tenders to friends of its managing director. A forensic report compiled by law firm Edward Nathan Sonnebergs and addressed to city manager Mavela Dlamini states that tenders for more than R117 million involving "corruption and maladministration ... on a large scale" were irregularly awarded by the department.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

## POLITICAL NEWS

### Zille accused of double standards on sex scandal

Controversial law expert Pierre Vos has accused Western Cape Premier Helle Zille of double standards and hypocrisy in her response to allegations of infidelity against Community Safety MEC Lennit Max. In her response this week to allegations of sexual misconduct made against Max by former police clerk, the Democratic Alliance (DA) leader said this was a "private matter". Zille had been vociferous in her criticism of President Jacob Zuma and his affairs with Sonono Khoza, writing in her weekly newsletter: "The more important the public position, the more a person's attitude come to bear on their public persona." De Vos accused her of hypocrisy and said allegations of a senior official having sexual relations with an employee was a gender issue that always merits public scrutiny.

STAR; Cape Times

### Issue of elephant sculptures to be discussed

eThekweni Municipal Manager Michael Sutcliffe said that the issue of the three elephant sculptures will be discussed at today's meeting of the council's executive committee. African National Congress (ANC) councillors are now opposed to the sculptures, apparently because the elephant was the symbol of the ruling party's arch rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). However, Mayor Obed Mlaba now claims that the sculptures were not elephants but statues of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhino. Sutcliffe said that the project should have been tabled to a municipal committee for approval and that all councillors should have been involved in the decision.

MERCURY

### DA applauds Shabangu's stance on nationalisation

Democratic Alliance (DA) chief whip Ian Davidson yesterday lauded Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu for her stance of the nationalisation of mines. South Africa needed an open, competitive economy, promoting choice and opportunities, he said during debate in the National Assembly on President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation speech. Davidson said that Shabangu's comment that mines would not be nationalised in her lifetime showed extraordinary leadership. "It showed that she understands that international capital markets are fickle, that markets like certainty, failing which investment capital is hesitant or comes with a high-risk premium. For this she gets top marks - by contrast (ANC Youth League President) Julius Malema is shown to understand as much about markets as he does about woodwork."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

### DA takes ANC head to task

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in the Cape Town Metro has taken the head of the African National Congress (ANC) provincial task team, Membathisi Mdladlana to task for using race to divide residents. The party was reacting to Mdladlana's comments when he accused the DA of racially exclusive policies.

CAPE TIMES

### ANCyl, Cosatu to discuss mine nationalisation

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) confirmed on Monday that it would be meeting with the Congress of the South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) on Thursday to discuss different policy issues. ANCyl spokesperson Floyd Shivambu told Mining Weekly Online that the nationalisation of South Africa's mines and "the way to move forward with the issue" would be on top of the agenda. Cosatu spokesperson Patrick Craven confirmed that the labour federation would meet with the ruling party's youth league and said that the issue of nationalisation would "quite likely" be discussed. Earlier this month, the ANCyl adopted a framework for engagement towards the nationalisation of mines. The document serves as a basis for engagement with stakeholders, including Cosatu, the South African Communist Party, business organisations, the Chamber of Mines and primarily the ANC.

MININGWEEKLY.COM

### 'Girlfriend's tender irregular'

The awarding of a catering tender to President Jacob Zuma's Pietermaritzburg-based girlfriend was irregular, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said yesterday. The IFP provincial leader Lionel Mtshali said the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature had broken the law by awarding a tender to Nonkululeko Mhlongo, who is reported to have two children with Zuma. The party allege that the awarding of the R1 303 671 tender had not been advertised in the Government Gazette, as was required by the treasury regulations.

STAR, THE TIMES; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

### Sexual harassment tackled

The Western Cape provincial government is introducing steps to tackle sexual harassment in the workplace, Premier Hellen Zille announced yesterday. A sexual harassment training course would be immediately added to the compulsory induction training for all new Western Cape provincial employees, said Zille. While the provincial government had had a sexual harassment policy for a decade, it had fallen into disuse.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

## Buthelezi, Pandor lock horns

Cultural observance clashed with gender equality yesterday when Science Minister Naledi Pandor called Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to order for asking men in the National Assembly to stand in honour of Nelson Mandela. Buthelezi responded in angrily, reminding Pandor that men were particularly asked to stand in respect of women. "I pity your ignorance," said Buthelezi during the debate on the State of the Nation address. But Pandor said: "I think it's only unfortunate for an honourable leader to call on males in the house to rise and thus excluding female members." Some MP's burst out laughing as Buthelezi gave Pandor a dressing down.

STAR

## ANC hits out at vote of no confidence

The African National Congress (ANC) Parliamentary caucus has rubbished the Congress of the People (COPE) vote of no confidence motion against President Jacob Zuma. "COPE's plan to propose a motion of no confidence against the President in the National Assembly is nothing other than a cheap shot at publicity aimed at salvaging its sinking public profile," said ANC Chief Whip Mathole Motshekga yesterday. COPE President Mosiuoa Lekota said: "COPE seeks to protect the dignity of the office of the President and we believe the vote of no confidence sends a strong message. "The ANC breakaway party wants Zuma removed from office because of his extra-marital affair scandal."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

## SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

### Prisoners in Groenpunt claim to be abused

Prisoners at the Groenpunt correctional services facility in Vereeniging say their human rights are being abused by a clamp down there. A fight broke between inmates late last week and officials have imposed a lockdown on all prisons to maintain order at the facility. Eye Witness News reports that they have received several complaints about inmates not being fed nor being allowed to make calls to their families. Correctional Service officials have not been unavailable for comment

TALK RADIO 702 NEW EXTRA @ 08:00

### Shop owners slammed the V&A Waterfront

Shop owners at the V&A Waterfront have slammed centre management for not providing adequate security after two stores were robbed at the weekend, but V&A Waterfront management said it was still one of the safest shopping destinations. Tenants, however, have disputed this, complaining that security at the Waterfront was inadequate. V&A Waterfront spokesperson Annemie Liebenberg said that the mall is still one of the safest destinations, and have a good record of identifying and apprehending suspects.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

### South Africa and Germany in joint military exercises

South Africa and Germany will conduct joint military exercises near Cape Town over the next month. This was confirmed by the Simon's Town naval base yesterday. The base said that the seas and skies surrounding Cape Town will be used to conduct military exercises between the South African National Defence Force and the German Task Force Group. Some of the exercises will include live missile and gun firings.

CAPE TIMES

### MP's will grill Radebe regarding Mpshe

Justice Minister Jeff Radebe, under pressure to withdraw the appointment of deputy prosecutions chief Mokotedi Mpshe as an acting judge, will also face questions in Parliament. The Democratic Alliance (DA) has tabled question asking Radebe whether reports that he approached a number of judges with a view to finding an acting position for Mpshe were true. While the constitution allowed the minister to make acting appointments, the perception that it was a reward for Mpshe's decision to withdraw corruption charged against President Jacob Zuma 'inevitably arises', added the DA. Criticism of Mpshe's secondment from the National Prosecuting Authority as an acting judge in the North West division lies in the concern that such an appointment undermines the judiciary's independence.

STAR

## LABOUR & UNION NEWS

### NUM may strike against Eskom

Eskom might be faced with another strike by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) if the union's demands regarding housing allowances, temporary workers and the utility's proposal to lift tariffs by 35% for each of the next three years were not addressed, the NUM said yesterday. Members of the union would march to Eskom's offices to hand over a list of its demands, it said.

The Business Day revealed that hundreds of workers at Eskom in Matlosana, North West, are set to march over the grievances.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star), BUSINESS DAY (National), CITIZEN (Second Edition)

### Teba Limited workers down tools

Workers at Teba Limited yesterday downed tools after failed wage negotiations with the mining services company, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said. About 200 workers downed tools and 170 marched to the firm's headquarters in the Johannesburg CBD, said NUM negotiator Tseliso Lesibe. Workers were due to hand over a memorandum of demands to company management. The NUM is demanding that Teba comply with a Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) proposal for a 9% wage increase.

STAR, BUSINESS DAY (National)

### Cosatu: Probe World Cup prices

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi wants the Competition Commission to intervene in the pricing of transport and accommodation ahead of the World Cup, the SABC reported on Monday. "This is absolutely something we want the Competition Commission to do something definitely about, and they must act decisively now before those unscrupulous employers put up their prices in June and July," he said. This follows widespread concerns about the inflation of hotel prices and flights in the run-up to the tournament.

FIN24.CO.ZA

### Lime mine workers on strike

A strike by more than 300 workers at the Idwala Lime mine near Danielskuil in the Northern Cape province entered its second day yesterday. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said that the dispute centred around organisational rights as the company refused to recognise the union, which represented over 60% of the workforce. Idwala Lime GM, Bertus Wessels, explained to Mining Weekly Online that the mine was a small operation and that workers were already represented by two unions. "The company just did not see the need for a third union at this point in time, seeing that we only have 250 permanent workers." The NUM had referred the dispute to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), which issued a certificate of non-resolution, giving the union the right to strike. "We have decided to go the strike route after prolonged talks with Idwala Lime. They have clearly opted for a confrontational approach," said the NUM Kimberley regional organiser Botshelo Lebelo.

MININGWEEKLY.COM, BUSINESS DAY (National)

### Solidarity set to fight Denel

Denel's 4% wage increase was unacceptable, trade union Solidarity said yesterday. "Although the board and executive directors of Denel received close to R4.3 million in bonuses last year, the company is budgeting for a mere 4% wage increase this year," the union said. It would not agree to increase in the upcoming wage negotiations. Solidarity added that the separate entities of the state-owned firm budgeted for increases of more than 5%.

NEWS REVIEWS; BUSINESS REPORT (National)

## NEWS BRIEF

### Sharpsville to become World Cup tourist destination

Fifty years after it was the scene of one of South Africa's bloodiest anti-Apartheid uprisings, Sharpsville's leaders hope to make the township a must-see for World Cup visitors. A company working with leaders from the Gauteng township have launched a project designed to attract tourists attending the 2010 World Cup. On 21 March 1960, police opened fire on a group of residents protesting against SA's pass laws outside the police station, killing 69 people. Sharpsville first unveiled its plans for the area at a briefing in Cape Town. Company Chairperson Joe Makhafola said the timing of the project was perfect. "The opportunity is now because (the World Cup) is around the corner," he said. "We need to make a lasting impression on the tourists that are coming to our country. The timing of this project is correct in terms of launching ahead of the FIFA World Cup, so that the world knows our history."

IOLTRAVEL.CO.ZA

### Pools lead to potholes - JRA

Swimming pool backwashing is one of the causes of potholes on suburban roads, the Johannesburg Road Agency (JRA) said on Monday. Vandalism and "ageing infrastructure" were other challenges in the face of "diminishing budgets", the JRA said. The flooding of roads and dangerous, unclosed manhole covers were being caused by people misusing infrastructure. Theft was also an issue, with cables, manhole covers and even the globes of traffic lights being stolen. Another problem was the digging up of roads to create speed bumps in areas where communities felt drivers were going too fast.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; PRETORIA NEWS; STAR; THE TIMES

### Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust needs counsellors

The Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust is looking for counsellors in support of survivors of rape and sexual violence. The organisation offers a course starting 8 March and it will run for three months. Director of the trust, Kathleen Dey said that counselling is the core service they offer to rape victims.

*CAPE ARGUS (City Late)*

### Business Express train stoned

Passengers using the Pretoria to Johannesburg Business Express train scurried for cover yesterday as stones hurled by disgruntled commuters pelted their coaches. The Business Express, which was unveiled in 2008 to lure young professional and businesspeople from the road and alleviate traffic congestion was attacked at Kempton Park station. Passengers using the ordinary trains, frustrated by constant delays, vented their frustration by pelting the business train with stones, claiming that those using it were getting priority. Metrorail spokesperson Sibusiso Ngomane said trail delays and cancellations were caused by the early morning power failure along the Johannesburg-Pretoria railway corridor.

*STAR*

### IEC works on civic education programme

In between elections, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is busy with a civic education programme that helps people learn the significance of living in a democracy. One such project locally is a schools programme being managed by the Msunduzi Municipality branch of the IEC. Msunduzi Municipality Electoral Officer, Nick Davids, said that its aim is to promote public awareness of the importance of public participation to keep a democracy healthy. The IEC's partners in the project are the KZN Premier's office, the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business, the Msunduzi Municipality, the Education Department and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

*WITNESS*

### Mandela Bridge swallowed by darkness

The Nelson Mandela Bridge has been swallowed by darkness and none of Joburg City departments want to take responsibility for keeping its lights working. At present, at least four of the lights are not operating and property developers working in Braamfontein say this has been the case for several weeks. When The Star asked the City of Joburg who was responsible, the query was passed from department to department. City Power said only four lights weren't working. Spokesperson Louis Pieterse added that planning was being done for the installation of a remotely controlled monitor to keep a check on the lights on the bridge.

*STAR*

### Mystery over Mandoza's car crash

Kwaito star Mandoza's car crash in Roodepoort on Sunday has generated more questions than answers. Allegedly, Mandoza had lost control of a Mini Cooper S on JG Strijdom Road in Weltevreden Park but police have cast doubt as to whether the controversial musician was even behind the wheel at all. The tow-truck driver that was first to arrive at the scene stated that Mandoza was found in the back seat. Metro-police spokesperson Inspector Edna Mamonyane said that the owner of the vehicle has refused to answer his phone. Joburg metro police spokesperson Chief Superintendent Wayne Minaar said that an accident report was given to Honeydew police station but inspector Karen Jacobs says she has failed to receive a report.

*STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)*

### Teachers 'can halt suicides'

Suicide accounts for 9,5% of teenage deaths in South Africa. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (Sadag) have said that only 25% of teens will seek help from an adult, while most prefer to confide in friends. Sadag spokesperson Cassey Amoore says that this dynamic needs to change and teachers are perfectly placed in that they spend more time with teens than their parents do. Amoore said Sadag's message to all educators during Teen Suicide Prevention Week was to "watch and question" the emotion behind the behaviour of the pupils in class.

*CITIZEN (Second Edition)*

## HEALTH NEWS

### Vuvuzelas pose risk to hearing - study

The Local Organising Committee (LOC), FIFA and stadium management could face damage claims if they fail to warn or protect football fans from the potential harmful effects of vuvuzelas. A University of Pretoria study has established that just brief exposure at close range could cause permanent hearing loss or tinnitus, constant ringing in the ear. The study by Dr Dirk Koekemoer and Professors James Hall and De Wet Swanepoel, all of the university's department of communication pathology, appears this month in the SA Medical Journal. Swanepoel said that, according to the SA National Standard regulating occupational noise exposure, no one within a two-metre radius of a vuvuzela should be exposed to it continually for more than one minute. LOC CEO Danny Jordaan has said the tournament "will be the loudest World Cup, and the LOC has dismissed the study as unscientific and one that does not prove that vuvuzelas pose a risk to hearing.

*MERCURY, IOL.CO.ZA*

### HIV treatment guidelines finally up to date

The Health Department has signed off new HIV treatment guidelines, bringing South Africa in line with international best practice and removing a drug responsible a wide range of side effects. The new guidelines were finally signed off last week following a meeting in November with the provinces, donors, and HIV clinicians and other HIV experts.

*STAR*

### Medical waste pay shambles

A pay dispute between the Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development (DOH) and a waste company contracted to remove medical waste has added to the woes currently being experienced by the provincial department. This follows after general refuse removal company Pikitup collected hundreds of boxes of medical waste from the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital at the weekend, and yesterday, after the company contracted to collect the waste, Phambili Wasteman refused to do the job because of supposed lack of payment. Departmental spokesperson Mandla Sidu said that as far as "we are concerned, the hospital is up to date with the account as the paperwork proves". Sidu added that he was unable to confirm any amount, but a letter from the department to Phambili dated 26 January notes that a total of R7 867 042 is owed, and will be paid during the April/May payment run.

*CITIZEN (Second Edition)*

### Touch a snake at your peril boffins warn

Experts have warned people not to handle snakes even if they think they're harmless. After three people were bitten recently by a highly venomous boomslang, Professor Ken Boffard of the trauma unit at Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg yesterday warned people not to handle snakes, even if they thought they were harmless. The three - two local men and a female tourist from Germany - were bitten by a boomslang they handled near Zeerust in North West on 6 February and were transported to the hospital for treatment at Milpark. They were discharged after a three-day stay, said Boffard.

*STAR*

## PROVINCIAL NEWS

### Centurion Lake causing a stink

With less than four months to the World Cup and the consequent flood of football teams and fans to Tshwane, businesses and hotels situated around Centurion Lake are worried that their smelly problem will persist. It also does not look like it is going to be solved soon given the confusion between the Tshwane Metro Council and the Gauteng Department Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). The Pretoria News first reported in 2008 how Centurion Mall tenants were kicking up a stink over the state of the lake which had become filled with foul-smelling silt, rotting effluent and litter. In September of that year, the Tshwane Metro Council pledged R2 million to sort out the problem. Dredging was supposed to have started in November that year, but that never happened.

*PRETORIA NEWS*

### NWest under pressure to complete 2010 road project

The North West Department of Roads and Transport is under pressure to complete the stalled roads construction projects before the 2010 FIFA World Cup, in less than three months. The projects, which cover more than 150 kilometres, have stalled, since last year, in the wake of the department's depletion of its 2009/2010 budget, in less than six months. The department later discovered, through forensic investigations, that some of the roads construction tenders, were irregularly awarded. But, it is not all gloom and doom, as some of the World Cup projects, such as the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace in Phokeng, and the two training venues at Mogwase and Moruleng, have been completed and are ready for the tournament. Roads that are in doubt are the Phokeng-Sun City road, code-named the FIFA Protocol Road, the Koster/Lichtenburg road and the Lichtenburg/Mafikeng road.

*SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS*

### Sanco claims bus commuters frustrated

The South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) said that Durban bus commuters are frustrated with the service provided by Transnat Africa. The organisation said that the eThekweni Municipality should take back control of the bus service. Sanco Regional Secretary, Richard Hlophe, said that the City was facing a "serious crisis" concerning the unreliable bus service and if the problem was not resolved, commuters would boycott the buses and hold protest marches to express their grievances.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

### Wall poses threat to residents

The partial collapse of a gabion retaining wall at the Umlazi Housing Development built by Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport poses a threat to residents and the stability of houses it was erected to preserve. This follows advice given to the eThekweni Municipality from an independent local civil structural engineer who visited the development two weeks ago and reported that there was proof that the wall was failing. eThekweni Housing Committee Chairperson, Nigel Gumede, said that engineers had already instructed the developer to resolve the problems with the development.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

### KZN delegation attend ceremony

A delegation of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial government, led by MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, attended a ceremony over the weekend to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Matola raid conducted by apartheid security forces on African National Congress (ANC) safe houses in Matola. The Matola raid was conducted on 30 January 1981 by a unit of the South African Defence Force (SADF) as part of destabilisation efforts against southern African countries that were supporting the liberation struggle led by the ANC. Mchunu was accompanied by KZN Health MEC, Sibongiseni Dhlomo and MPLs Yatima Makhosazana Nahara and Ntombizodwa Doris Sikosana.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

### Vertical jigging method banned at iSimangaliso

The vertical jigging method of catching fish has been banned at the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The decision to ban vertical jigging was taken after discussions with conservation partners, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZNW), organised angling, the Marine and Coastal Management branch of the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and specialists from relevant universities and research institutes.

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

### Angry Cape Town traders protest

Angry Cape Town traders protested yesterday against being moved away from the CBD after they were evicted to make way for construction to upgrade the facility. The traders have been cut out of work for more than two weeks after being evicted, because they refuse to move to a site at Vasco station. Many traders said that they had been in the business for more than 30 years and felt betrayed by Intersite and the City of Cape Town.

CAPE TIMES

### No action upsets members

The slow pace in prosecuting civil servants who have been illegally receiving government grants has upset public accounts committee members in the KwaZulu-Natal legislature, who have called for a meeting with Acting Director-General, Roger Govender, to discuss the matter. Committee Chairperson Mike Tarr, said that the committee believed that accessing grants amounted to theft and those who were guilty should be punished. The committee expressed concern that action had not been taken against errant officials.

MERCURY

### Alleged City Parks graft probed

The Board of Directors of Johannesburg City Parks will decide what to do about claims of corruption once it has received a report on the matter, as requested by the City Manager Mavela Dlamini. The Times reported that the department had awarded multimillion-rand tenders to friends of its managing director. The forensic report compiled by law firm Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs contains a number of allegations and made a number of recommendations to suspend the managing director pending an investigation but these have not been met. The South African Municipal Workers Union's (Samwu) Gauteng Chairperson, Enock Sibiyi said he had been trying to get hold of the report for months to no avail and has suspended Samwu and its members for whistleblowing.

STAR

### Task team to address funding problems at Msunduzi

A task team has been appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal government to address its funding problems after it emerged that the Msunduzi Municipality has cash reserves to last it for about one week. The municipality also suffered a setback yesterday when the government announced that it would not be awarded metro status. KZN Co-operative Governance MEC Nomusa Dube, who said that she supported the board's revised decision, said that Msunduzi, in its current state, was not properly configured.

MERCURY

### iSimangaliso demolishes cottages

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority has started to demolish illegally-built holiday cottages erected in the park after the developers failed to remove the structures. The Durban High Court last year ruled in favour of the park's authority and the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board who sought to interdict the developers from clearing vegetation and building without permission or conducting environmental impact assessments at the park's coastal forest reserve between Sodwana Bay and Kosi Bay. The orders also prevent the developers from conducting commercial or tourism activities in the park.

MERCURY

### Contract not advertised in tender bulletin

It has emerged that a multimillion-rand contract for catering services for the KwaZulu-Natal legislature given to Priscilla Nonkululeko Mhlongo, mother of President Jacob Zuma's love children, was not advertised in the tender bulletin. Bongani Sibisi's statement that the contract had been awarded to Mhlongo on merit was disputed by opposition parties. Democratic Alliance (DA) Caucus Leader John Steenhuisen said that further investigation into the awarding of the contract to Mhlongo was needed.

MERCURY

### Securing water for Kwadukuza

The entire water reticulation system in Kwadukuza's Central Business District is being replaced as part of a R30 million project, which will see a total of 16km of new piping installed at the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast town during the next eight months. This project will benefit the CBD and its neighbouring wards. The new PVC system - with piping ranging in diameter from 50mm to 200mm - will provide Kwadukuza with a reliable supply of water in contrast to the current situation of leaking pipes and interruptions to water supplies. This is Phase 1 of the project which commenced in January 2010 and will be completed in August 2010. A total of 11 000 manday employment opportunities will be created. Phase 2 of the project is estimated at R70 million and will benefit Stanger Manor, Sundumbili and other areas.

NEWS REVIEWS

## EDUCATION NEWS

### Group Five completes education building

Group Five announced yesterday that it had been issued with a certificate of completion from the Department of Education for the new serviced head office for the Department of Basic Education in Pretoria. The R403 million private-public partnership venture is a 27-year project, ranging from construction through to operations and maintenance. Group Five's building business unit was the lead construction partner on the project, which started in 2007.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

### National Student Financial Aid Scheme being edited

The findings of a committee whose work included investigating the need for free undergraduate education will be released next month. Ranjeni Munusamy, spokesperson for Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande said that the National Student Financial Aid Scheme ministerial review had been appointed last June and its report is being edited.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

## GOVERNMENT BRIEF

### DoT issues tender for WC spectator transport

The Department of Transport (DoT) has issued a tender for the management and provision of general spectator transport for the 2010 World Cup. The department is interested in securing the services of an operating management entity to procure, operate and manage inter-provincial and regional road transport for spectators during the course of the World Cup. The transport must be provided, on an integrated basis, by a combination of buses and minibus taxis in accordance with the transport schedules provided by the DoT. The operating management entity would be responsible for all transport aspects including ticket sales and fare collection. The scheduled routes are mostly between Gauteng and other inland cities where matches will be played. Some coastal routes to and from Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, have also been identified. The closing date is 22 February 2010.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA

### Solidarity implores SA to send crime letters to Zuma

The Solidarity Movement plans to mobilise ordinary South Africans to send thousands of letters to President Jacob Zuma's email within two days. Printouts of the letters will be delivered in mailbags at Parliament this morning, before President Zuma's reply to the debate on his State of the Nation Address. The letters will serve as a reaction to last Thursday's State of the Nation Address. According to Solidarity, President Zuma devoted approximately 2% of his speech to crime - far less than any of the government's other priorities. Less time was devoted to crime than the welcoming of the guests. Zuma receive a letter in his inbox every six seconds on Monday morning. "At least 7 000 anti-crime letters have landed in President Zuma's email over the past 18 hours and thousands more are expected by today 10am," Solidarity deputy general secretary Dirk Hermann said in a statement.

NEWS REVIEWS; MAIL & GUARDIAN

### Govt: PetroSA's \$9bn refinery on track

The government said yesterday that PetroSA's \$9 billion Project Mthombo was "on track", providing positive stimulus for South Africa's largest crude oil refinery to be built as scheduled. Although Department of Energy spokesperson Zodwa Batyashe would only say, "Nothing has changed in terms of projects plans," the assurance is likely to ease fears that its commissioning by 2014 will not go ahead as planned and be delayed, like Eskom's Kusile power plant. If it does, Mthombo will be a boost to the Coega industrial development zone near Port Elizabeth, which suffered a major setback last year when Rio Tinto scrapped its plan to build an aluminium smelter there due to power shortages. PetroSA's board made a decision on Mthombo's future on Friday, but would not reveal these plans yesterday.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

### Acid mine drainage an 'impending crisis'

Increasing attention has been given to the "impending water crisis" caused by acid mine drainage (AMD) in the Witwatersrand gold fields area, with certain industry estimates stating that some 60-million litres of polluted AMD water could pour out into Johannesburg by 2011 if nothing is done to counter the problem. In Gauteng, AMD was affecting the western, central, and eastern basins, and impacting on the Vaal and Crocodile River systems. Gauteng and Mpumalanga have had strong rains in recent months, and the AMD problem was said to be causing water basins in these areas to overflow with polluted and even toxic water from historical mining operations. Having identified the problems, solutions were now starting to emerge, and the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) and mining companies have established public private partnership (PPP) to formulate a collaborative solution to the AMD problem in the Witwatersrand area.

MININGWEEKLY.COM

### Housing fund thin on detail, caution banks

President Jacob Zuma's plan to set up a housing guarantee fund of R1 billion was thin on how it would address risk issues. It also lacked detail on how its implementation would affect the challenges of housing in South Africa. Luthando Vutula, the Managing Executive of Absa Home Loans, said last week that the biggest problem would be the levels of risk cover that would be provided between the banks and the government. Vutula said that the bank and the government had to be involved in intensive bilateral talks to understand the structure of the guarantee and mechanisms involved. "We also need to obtain clarity on the proposition and the rules that support this new initiative before the credit risks can be accurately determined," Vutula said.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

### Airlines almost double ticket prices in taxes

Some airlines are nearly doubling the prices of their initial ticket quotations with the addition of airport taxes, fuel surcharges and aviation insurance, a survey has found. The Departments of Tourism and Trade and Industry are calling for an investigation into the transparency of airline pricing. If pricing practices and policies are in breach of the Consumer Protection Act by levying "hidden taxes", they may face regulation. Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk called for the probe on the weekend and said he was concerned about the effects of airline tickets on the tourism industry. The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, is expected to make further announcements about the investigation within the next two weeks.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); STAR; PRETORIA NEWS

### Government seeks to speed up land reform

The government will introduce a new draft policy on land tenure this year aimed at speeding up its programme to give land to landless black people, Rural Development and Land Affairs Minister Gugile Nkwinti said yesterday. Nkwinti said his department was working on a policy framework that would set out how the government should go about reversing inequalities in land ownership between black people and white people.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

### ANC admits rejection by coloureds in W Cape

The African National Congress (ANC) in the Western Cape has conceded that the coloured-working class is rejecting the organisation in the province. They will now intensify the drive to turn the situation around. This is part of the resolutions taken at a three-day provincial Lekgotla of the ANC and its alliance partners. Leader of the Provincial Task Team, Membathisi Mdladlana, told a media briefing in Cape Town that the task of organising the coloured working class can no longer be left to Congress of the South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) alone.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

### Ministers try their best to counter criticism

As opposition parties flayed President Jacob Zuma for the lack of substance in his State of the Nation address last week, government ministers went on the offensive by starting to put flesh on the bones of Zuma's promises. Announcements during yesterday's debate on Zuma's address - widely criticised as vague and insubstantial - included plans to speed up land reform, improve dismal education outcomes and swine-flu vaccination campaign ahead of the World Cup kick-off in June. However, the ministers in charge of executing the plans stated by Zuma in his speech all sought to give further details on how they are going to execute what the president promised.

STAR

### Zuma blasted

Opposition leaders launched an all-out assault on President Jacob Zuma yesterday, questioning his ability to lead and tearing into his "weak" State of the Nation address. Zuma silently took notes as he was accused of disrespecting Nelson Mandela's legacy and distorting employment statistics. He will respond to the debate in Parliament today.

THE TIMES

### BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, the government would target capital goods, transport equipment and metal production in a new industrial policy, aiming to boost manufacturing capacity and jobs, Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies said yesterday. A pay dispute between the Gauteng DOH and a waste company contracted to remove medical waste has added to the woes currently being experienced by the provincial department, after Phambili Wasteman refused to do the job because of supposed lack of payment. This follows after general refuse removal company Pikitup collected hundreds of boxes of medical waste from the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital at the weekend and yesterday. Trade federation Cosatu's member-unions have declared "war" on stubborn employers and are demanding better salaries and working conditions for their members.

NEWS REVIEWS

### New direction for industrial policy and rand

The government would target capital goods, transport equipment and metal production in a new industrial policy, aiming to boost manufacturing capacity and jobs, Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies said yesterday. Davies said the government was also looking at ways to stabilise the rand, which rallied nearly 30% against the dollar last year. Davies will unveil a long-awaited three-year industrial plan on Thursday, as the local economy emerges from its first recession in 17 years and looks to crank up a manufacturing sector hard hit by the global economic downturn. "It will include a combination of cross-cutting measures and also sector-specific programmes with focuses on capital goods, transport equipment and metal fabrication sectors," Davies said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National)

### Unions declare 'war' on stubborn bosses

Trade federation the Congress of South African Trade Unions's (Cosatu's) member-unions have declared "war" on stubborn employers and are demanding better salaries and working conditions for their members. Members of the Nation Union of Mineworkers (NUM) - Cosatu's largest affiliate representing those in the mining, construction and energy sectors - downed tools yesterday at mining services company Teba in Johannesburg. More than 300 workers marched to Teba's offices to hand in a memorandum of demands, which include a wage hike of 12.5% and 3% service increment for each year of service plus a R5 000 once off payment for workers with 10 years of service or more. Ironically, the company is Chaired by the NUM's former president, James Motlatsi.

TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

## Bharti hits green button to signal battle with MTN

Five months after the collapse of a proposed tie-up between MTN and India's Bharti Airtel, the two are set to go head-to-head in Africa's cellphone industry, after Bharti launched a \$10,7 billion bid for most of the African operations of Kuwaiti telecommunications company Zain. Under the terms of the deal, India's largest cellphone operator will take over Zain's units in 15 African countries. Bharti is looking to boost its margins by expanding beyond its core operation in India, where fierce competition by numerous international players has forced cellphone tariffs to levels that are among the world's lowest. However, Bharti would need to undertake several years of sustained investment in order to seriously challenge MTN's dominant position in the African market, analysts said.

*BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets*

## BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan will probably fend off demands for extra spending in tomorrow's Budget in a bid to curb a record deficit, angering the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which wants radical policy shifts; and staying with the 2010 budget speech, organised business said that Gordhan must clarify the government's position on key economic policy discussions currently underway in the public domain. The housing market was also in focus as the government will introduce a new draft policy on land tenure this year aimed at speeding up its programme to give land to landless black people; and President Jacob Zuma's plan to set up a housing guarantee fund of R1 billion was thin on how it would address risk issues. It also lacked detail on how its implementation would affect the challenges of housing in South Africa.

*NEWS REVIEWS*

### Gordhan faces balancing act

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan will probably fend off demands for extra spending in tomorrow's Budget in a bid to curb a record deficit, angering the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which wants radical policy shifts. Gordhan will try to meet last year's election promise by President Jacob Zuma to slash the 24.3% unemployment rate and reduce poverty using existing plans.

*BUSINESS REPORT (Star)*

### Budget should be 'surprise free'

In his budget speech, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan must clarify the government's position on key economic policy discussions currently underway in the public domain, organised business said on Monday. This included inflation targeting and exchange rate management, Business Unity SA (Busa) said in a statement. "Policy certainty and predictability remain important considerations in investment decisions. This means that the budget should largely be 'surprise free' and not contain policy or tax shocks." It expected the budget speech would continue along the established path - as encapsulated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework - in identifying expenditure priorities for the 2010-2011 budget cycles. It was expected the country would run a budget deficit in the medium term as part of its economic recovery package.

*FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK*

### An end to the recession in the domestic economy

Leading economic indicators suggest that the domestic economy is now officially out of recession, and in line with forecasts for a steady recovery in the global economy, South African GDP is forecast to grow by 2.4% in 2010 and by 3.2% on 2011. This is the view of Daryll Owen, Chief Investment Officer at BoE Private Clients, who says that despite a retreat in equity markets during January 2010, the economic data for calendar 2009 - most of which has now been published - suggests that the domestic economy has troughed and is very slowly on the mend. This view is reinforced by the BoE Private Clients and Sake24 Provincial Barometers, which measure business activity in the private sector economies of four leading provinces: Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and the Free State.

*NEWS REVIEWS*

### Rising export demand to buoy growth

The economy is likely to grow at 2.7% this year, and there might be an interest rate cut next month if pending electricity price hikes were lower than expected, the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) said yesterday. Its growth estimate is well above the latest official forecast for output to expand 1.5% this year, but that is set to be revised higher when the Treasury unveils its 2010 budget tomorrow. The forecast from the BER - one of South Africa's most respected research institutions - is bang in line with market consensus, which sees the economy growing at about 2.6% this year.

*BUSINESS DAY (National)*

## Bonitas looking to recoup million

Bonitas has instructed an attorney to assess how it could recoup about R18 million the company lost from an investment in a KwaZulu-Natal property group. Once the lawyer had completed his work, the medical aid scheme would pursue criminal or civil charges against any parties identified by the attorney, Bonitas said yesterday. Last week, Bafana Nkosi, the scheme's former principal officer, quit just before a disciplinary hearing, where he would have faced charges relating to the investment. "The attorney is assessing all (the) major role players that were involved in the KwaZulu-Natal property development. Details can only be revealed once the attorney has gone through all the motions," said Gerhard van Emmenis, Chief Operating Officer.

*BUSINESS REPORT (Star)*

## Rent ruling will 'sap councils'

A High Court order to the City of Johannesburg to pay rent to a property owner on behalf of illegal squatters will divert much-needed funds from the city's crumbling infrastructure, the National Taxpayers Union (NTU) has said. According to the ruling, the City of Johannesburg is to pay the monthly rental bill for each of the 71 illegal squatters occupying a building in Berea owned by Blue Moonlight Properties 39 (Blue Moonlight). Alternatively, the municipality has to pay each occupant R850 per month for rent if it does not find them alternative housing. "The municipality can absolutely not handle this [additional expense]," said NTU Chairperson Jaap Kelder. "This ruling takes money away from roads and maintenance, it will result in the collapse of Johannesburg's infrastructure. [Paying for the squatters] is a government function. There's no way the municipality can handle this."

*FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK*

## 'Only equities beat listed property'

Although South Africa's listed property as an asset class returned to negative 0.25% last month, the sector is still an attractive alternative to cash and bonds and was outperformed only by equities in 12 months. Catalyst Fund Managers' monthly overview, released yesterday, showed that on a 12-month rolling assessment equities had recorded a total return of 33.16%, followed by South African listed property with 15.09%, cash 8.75% and bonds 1.67%.

*BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets*

## SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

South Africa's bowlers redeemed themselves towards the end of the second day of the second Test against India in Kolkata yesterday, after their poor bowling earlier in the day threatened to take the game away from the Proteas. India were reduced to 342/5 at stumps after losing the wickets of centurions Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in quick succession, which now leaves the Proteas in with more than a shout. Such was the dominance of the Indian duo that it is not inconceivable that they could have won the match for India had they still been at the crease on the third morning. Their dismissal now sets the stage for a fascinating climax to the match as the two best teams in the game chase the No 1 overall spot in the rankings. If the Proteas manage to dismiss the hosts by lunch, and bat for three sessions, a very tough run-chase on a difficult pitch awaits the hosts.

*News Reviews*

## Injuries hit SA Super 14 teams

South Africa's Super 14 teams have been struck by injuries following last weekend's first round of matches. The Bulls, who beat the Cheetahs 51-34 in their opener, will be without centre Jaco Pretorius for this Saturday's clash against the Brumbies after he picked up a leg injury. His opposite number at the Cheetahs, Corner Uys has been sidelined with an ankle injury, which could force coach Naka Drotske to move Lionel Mapoe from the wing to outside centre, prompting the inclusion of Danwel Demas in the starting line-up. The Stormers may have to make do without prop Wicus Blaauw for their clash against the Waratahs this weekend after he sustained a shoulder against the Lions, while Sharks coach John Plumtree's main injury concern is over lock Gerhard Mostert, who also picked up a shoulder injury.

*CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport*

## Sevens Boks finally get the better of Fiji

The Springbok Sevens team finally got the better of Fiji when they beat the islanders 12-7 in the Plate final at the United States leg of the International Rugby Board's Sevens World Series in Las Vegas on Sunday. Fiji had defeated South Africa in each of three quarterfinal clashes between the two nations prior to the Las Vegas leg. The tournament was won by Samoa, who beat New Zealand 33-12 in the final and moved into second place in the overall standings.

*THE TIMES*

**Proteas strike back**

India reached 342/5 at stumps in their first innings on the second day of the second Test against India in Kolkata yesterday, in reply to South Africa's 296 all out. South Africa's bowlers produced a spirited comeback late in the day, claiming the wickets of centurions Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag to keep South Africa's hopes alive.

*STAR, Sport*

**Beckham on the bench for United clash**

David Beckham is not guaranteed to start for AC Milan in their Champions League last 16 match against former club Manchester United tonight. The 34-year-old has been on the bench for Milan's last two league games, and only played 15 minutes in their last match against Udinese, a 3-2 victory which snapped a four-game winless run. Milan are facing injury worries heading into tonight's clash at the San Siro, with Thiago Silva and Marco Borriello both in doubt for the match.

*STAR, Sport*

**INDICATORS**

Rand - Dollar \$	7.7234	(-0.0289)
Rand - Sterling £	12.0894	(-0.0383)
Rand - Euro €	10.4938	(-0.0023)
JSE Allshare	26701.4	(+438.95)
Gold	1098.3	(+16.25)
Platinum	1513.0	(+8.00)
Brent Crude Oil	72.9	(+0.05)

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

**WEATHER**

Bloemfontein	15	(25)
Cape Town	16	(20)
Durban	23	(29)
East London	19	(25)
Johannesburg	18	(27)
Kimberley	14	(28)
Mafikeng	15	(28)
Nelspruit	20	(30)
Pietermaritzburg	21	(34)
Polokwane	17	(29)
Port Elizabeth	19	(23)
Pretoria	20	(29)