

THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, thousands of letters from ordinary South Africans bemoaning the country's crime situation yesterday received the cold shoulder from the president after it was labelled a "PR gimmick"; President Zuma has reassured investors that nationalisation was not on the government's agenda; it appears deaf and mute Cape Town cleaner, Stanley Philander, is not the winner of the R91 million Powerball lottery jackpot - the real winner is laying low; and finally, a convicted serial child molester was allowed to teach at primary schools because "he slipped through the cracks" and was not registered as a sexual offender.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: thousands of letters from ordinary citizens bemoaning the country's crime situation were snubbed by the Presidency's Vincent Magwenya who said that the letters lacked substance. The Western Cape man who claimed he won the R91 million Powerball draw last weekend is a fraud - and the true winners are keeping their identity a secret. A convicted serial child molester was allowed to teach at primary schools at which he repeated his crimes against two pupils - because "he slipped through the cracks" and was not registered as a sexual offender. President Jacob Zuma yesterday reassured investors that nationalisation was not on the government's agenda and he urged the opposition to enter this debate with Malema and to stop calling on the party leadership to silence him.

NEWS REVIEWS

2010 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Govt mum on Cabinet pact

Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane on Friday cast doubt on whether the ministerial performance contracts President Jacob Zuma vaunted in his State of the Nation address would be made public. Chabane told a media briefing the delivery targets set for ministers would be public knowledge, but responded hesitantly when asked what penalties would apply to members of the executive who failed to achieve them. "It is the president's call to see what then happens," said Chabane, who is Minister for Monitoring and Performance Evaluation. "The system is not necessarily based on punitive measures," he added, and suggested failure to meet targets would rather lead to a conclusion that "other action will have to be taken".

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS

President is unfazed by critics

A confident President Jacob Zuma yesterday responded to the savaging of his State of the Nation address received from opposition parties, and said there was no need for anyone to defend him. "I knew exactly what I wanted to say in the State of the Nation address and I said it. The State of the Nation Address covered the new era we are entering as government... an era of doing things differently, of ensuring that our work is determined by clear outcomes, and of increasing the pace and form of service delivery," Zuma said. "That is our new way of doing things. Unfortunately you did not hear this," he said. He also mentioned that nationalisation was "not government policy", but that debate on this topic, or any other could and should not be stopped. This following ANC Youth League (ANCYL) President Julius Malema's call for the nationalisation of mines.

STAR

Zuma fires back over his State of the Nation

Zuma stood his ground rebuffing his critics that his State of the Nation address lacked substance. Responding to the debate in Parliament yesterday, Zuma said his speech was right on the mark and that it provided as much information as the occasion warranted. He said his State of the Nation address will in time be fletched out by his Cabinet. But what set the house abuzz was attempts by Deputy Speaker Nomaindia Mfeketo to reign in on COPE's MP for a comment he made during a discussion on Monday. Mluleki George is alleged to have remarked that Zuma was leading the nation into lawlessness. He was asked to leave the chamber when he refused to withdraw the comment. As COPE members stormed out of Parliament, Democratic Alliance members jumped on the bandwagon and also walked out on proceedings.

eNews @ 19:00

TOP STORIES

Zuma snubs 23 000 crime plea letters

Thousands of letters from ordinary South Africans bemoaning the country's crime situation received the cold shoulder from the Presidency yesterday. Trade union Solidarity tried to deliver 23 000 letters to President Jacob Zuma at Parliament, but the desperate pleas never reached their destination. Presidential spokesperson Vincent Magwenya claimed the anti-crime campaign "lacked substance". "We do not recognise this campaign because it was conducted under false pretences, nor do we have time for public relations gimmicks that work hard in seeking the attention of the media," said Magwenya. But Solidarity's Deputy General Dirk Hermann hit back, saying the Presidency had earlier confirmed it would accept the letters. "We spoke to a representative in the Presidency by the name of Mavis Madonsela who indicated that we could deliver the letters," said Hermann.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS; BUSINESS DAY (National)

23 000 anti-crime letters delivered to Zuma

Solidarity yesterday delivered more than 23 000 letters that have been sent to President Zuma over the past three days at Parliament in mailbags and wheelbarrows. The trade union initially expected that about 10 000 letters would be sent in the short time available, but letters kept flooding in. This comes after thousands of South Africans paid heed to Solidarity's plea to send letters to Zuma via a webpage, email address and SMS, to ask him to make crime a bigger priority of the government. Solidarity decided to deliver the anti-crime letters at Parliament yesterday, as President Zuma responded to the debate on his State of the Nation Address. "The purpose of Solidarity's campaign is to show the President that a large number of South Africans are very serious about crime. We want the President to make crime a much bigger priority."

NEWS REVIEWS

POLITICAL NEWS

Zuma must resign: Payco

President Jacob Zuma must resign as head of state with immediate effect because he continues to embarrass South Africa, the Pan Africanist Youth Congress (PAYCO) of Azania said on Sunday. "We call upon him to do an honourable thing for the good of the Zuma family, his wives and the nation by resigning with immediate effect, to save our country from the never-ending embarrassment he keeps on causing," PAYCO President Kwame Ndebele said. "We wish to dissuade a myth that has been created by Zuma and his supporters that polygamous marriages are part of African culture. We reject this lie with contempt." Zuma, a polygamist, early this month confirmed his relationship out of wedlock with Sonono Khoza - daughter of soccer boss Irvin Khoza. He had also fathered a child with her. The baby girl, who was born in October, is reportedly the president's 20th child.

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS

COPE banks on opposition to challenge Zuma

Congress of the People (COPE) Deputy President Mbhazima Shilowa says the party is banking on the support of at least four opposition parties, among them the DA, in its intention to table a motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma. This emanates from reports that he has a four-month-old baby out of wedlock. Shilowa says, "It would be the second time that he (Zuma) would have entered into such liaison with a daughter of his friend. But, also our view is in which he has used culture to explain some of those indiscretions." He says Zuma's State of the Nation Address was not that of the standard required. "It is very clear that everything has come to a standstill because he is no more in a position to concentrate in terms of running of the country."

SABCNEWS.COM

COPE intends to contest KZN wards

The Congress of the People (COPE) said that it intends to contest every ward in KwaZulu-Natal in the municipal elections in 2011. COPE conceded that it performed poorly in the general elections. COPE Secretary, Phillip Mhlongo, said that the 2011 local government elections will take place at a time when people realised that they had made a mistake by voting for the African National Congress (ANC).

DAILY NEWS (Deadline)

COPE MP thrown out for 'insult'

President Jacob Zuma's morals were at the centre of a chaotic end to yesterday's debate in the National Assembly. Pandemonium erupted when Deputy Speaker Nomaindia Mfeketo ordered COPE MP Mluleki George, a former ANC stalwart, to leave the chamber. He had refused to withdraw a statement that Mfeketo ruled "out of order" on the grounds that it appeared to be insulting to the president. Most COPE and DA members had walked out and Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Minister of Correctional Services, stood up to complain that Diane Kohler-Barnard of the DA had sworn at Mfeketo. "We are not in a zoo here, we are not animals and this is not a circus," she said.

THE TIMES

Elephant sculptures not discussed at meeting

The issue of the three elephant sculptures was not discussed at yesterday's eThekweni executive committee meeting. Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Caucus Leader Thembi Nzuza has asked that a report on the matter be tabled at the next council meeting. eThekweni Municipal Manager, Michael Sutcliffe, who said on Monday said that the matter would be discussed at yesterday's meeting, reiterated that he had been unaware of the commissioning of sculptures.

MERCURY

Helen Zille not a 'hypocrite'

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille has responded to accusations of double standards following the accusations of sexual misconduct made against Western Cape Community Safety MEC Lennit Max. She says the accusations made against Max by former police clerk are a private matter. Recently, Zille has heavily criticised President Jacob Zuma for his affair with the daughter of prominent soccer boss. She says the matters should not be compared: "You will remember that President Zuma motivated and defended the cultural polygamy which is his right by saying that at least it was more honest than people who had girlfriends on the side and, then he promptly went and had girlfriends on the side as well. So, there was this element of dishonesty and hypocrisy which always aggravates an infringement hugely and I think that was partly what the outcry was about."

5fm NEWS @ 09:00

DA Minister to sue newspapers for defamation

Lawyers for Western Cape Community Safety Minister Lennit Max say they intend three suing three leading newspaper for alleged defamation. Max has also laid a charge of extortion against the women who's accused him of sexual harassment. He alleges that the woman called his office threatening to sell her story to the media if she wasn't employed as his media spokesperson. Max's lawyer Neels Veldtman says notification of the lawsuit will be sent out to the various parties. Letters of intent have been sent the Son, Rapport and Sunday Argus claiming damages for reporting on the story.

SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 11

ANC to consider action against DA MP for F-word

The office of the African National Congress's (ANC's) chief whip in Parliament says it will request the National Assembly to consider action against Democratic Alliance (DA) MP Dianne Kohler-Barnard. This action follows remarks that she allegedly made during a walkout by the DA, Congress of the People (COPE) and the Independent Democrats. ANC Parliamentary spokesperson Moloto Mothapo says the chief whip's office is shocked by the conduct of Kohler-Barnard. Mothapo says Barbard hurled the F-word at the ANC MPs and the deputy speaker as she left the house during the walkout. He says no matter how much Kohler-Barnard can disagree with political opponents there is no justification for such unruliness. Mothapo says the ANC chief whip's office wants action to be considered against Kohler-Barnard so that such conduct is not repeated in future.

SAfm NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Police on the look-out for fake ticket users

Football fans who use the web to buy fake World Cup tickets will be barred from entering stadiums during the tournament, and those thinking of producing fake tickets at the gates will be arrested and charged with forgery "on the spot", the police have warned. FIFA said that there were one-million tickets still available for the 2010 showpiece. These would be sold only via its website (fifa.com), at FNB branches and through FIFA's official hospitality partner, MATCH, the soccer body said. Several emails and unauthorised websites have, however, popped up, claiming to be selling tickets for the event. FIFA warned soccer fans not to respond to fake emails, most of which looked official. The organisation would not be responsible for payments made to unauthorised ticket vendors, it said in a statement.

IOL.CO.ZA

Cops jump student for 'giving Zuma the finger'

A University of Cape Town student has been arrested, had his house searched and been questioned about his political affiliations after allegedly gesturing at President Jacob Zuma's convoy of vehicles. Police officers have claimed he pointed his middle finger at the vehicles and also tried to resist arrest. But sociology student Chumani Maxwele, a card-carrying ANC member, has denied these allegations, claiming he merely waved the vehicles away because of the excessive noise. Law experts have said that anyone may point a middle finger if they wish to do so, even at the president.

STAR

Cape Town seas and skies will be a German war zone

Cape Town's seas and skies will be a German war zone when the South African military and its German counterpart stage joint exercises that start next week. The series known as Exercise Good Hope 4 is a large scale joint exercise of the SA Air Force, SA Navy and the German Navy and Air Force. SA Navy Captain Kevin Packer says this is part of the country's strategic defence package.

CAPE TIMES

ICD investigating the death of a wanted man

The Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD) is investigating the circumstances under which a man wanted by the police was shot dead in Nyanga. One of the man's two accomplices was wounded during a police chase on Monday night, said ICD spokesperson Moses Dlamini. He said the three men were in a bakkie, being chased by police over a crime in Bishop Lavis. They opened fire, and the police retaliated, killing the driver and wounding a second man in the vehicle. The third man fled when the vehicle came to standstill. A projectile and shrapnel were found inside the bakkie, and a firearm was discovered on the floor on the driver's side.

CAPE TIMES

Legal Aid South Africa case denied and postponed

A judge has dismissed an application by Legal Aid South Africa (Lasa) for leave to appeal against his order that it pay for the defence of two fraud accused it believes may have assets worth millions. Western Cape High Court Judge James Yekiso did not give immediate reasons. Advocate Gary Botha, for the State, argued that in terms of the constitution everyone, rich or poor, was entitled to representation at state expense if substantial injustice would otherwise result. The State opposed the Lasa application. Yekiso said he would give reasons for his ruling later, and postponed the case to 25 March to hear whether Lasa intended to petition the Supreme Court of Appeal.

CAPE TIMES

Badul challenges dismissal

Hariram Badul, former commissioner of the Mountain Rise Police Station has launched an application in the high court to challenge his dismissal on 29 January, two days before he retired. Badul said in an affidavit that he deems his dismissal unlawful and in breach of his employment contract. Badul claims that his dismissal had been motivated purely by "spite" to ensure that he would not receive medical aid and other benefits. Badul faces charges of fraud and theft.

MERCURY

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Developments in George set to create jobs

Fifty thousand jobs are said to be created in George, in the Southern Cape, thanks to a R28 billion development in the area. The local municipality has given the green light to Destiny Africa Investment Holdings to build the project along the N2 outside the Southern Cape. Company CEO Mathys Pretorius says the development will involve building a conference centre, shops, hotels, university and medical and residential units. Pretorius says: "Currently the region is dependent on tourism mostly and agriculture and both of these industries are very seasonal in pattern. With this (the new development) you succeed in drawing business the whole year."

5fm NEWS @ 06:00

Solidarity hopeful of Budget speech

With the country's economy still recovering very slowly following last year's recession, Solidarity yesterday expressed the hope that the Minister of Finance will clearly explain in his budget speech today how the government will create an environment that encourages economic growth and job creation. Solidarity is especially concerned about the country's poor exports, low consumer spending and the uncertainty about input costs such as electricity, which are currently preventing businesses from growing. According to Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans, the government must give businesses the assurance of a stable environment in order to ensure that production in the economy can be increased faster and employment can improve.

NEWS REVIEWS

Unions hope Gordhan will elaborate on job creation

Workers will be looking to Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan to flesh out President Jacob Zuma's promises when he makes his maiden budget speech today. Trade Union Solidarity said yesterday it hopes Gordhan would explain clearly how the government plans to create an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. Solidarity said it was concerned about the low level of exports and consumer spending and the uncertainty about input costs such as electricity. Union spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans said the government should give businesses the assurance of a stable environment. "We also hope that the minister will announce a clear plan regarding how the government will help Eskom to go ahead with its expansion plans without huge tariff hikes," he said.

TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

YCL urges probe into 'nepotism' at Vodacom

The Young Communist League (YCL) has called for the Department of Labour to investigate allegations of nepotism against former Vodacom CEO Alan Knott-Craig, describing the company as "a haven for corruption and white-collar criminals". Vodacom is resisting a Labour Court subpoena to release a 2008 report by accountants KPMG into claims by a former employee that Knott-Craig misused his position to assist family members. The claims showed "that corruption is all over and the private sector is not immune to it," the YCL said. Spokesperson Gugu Ndima said that the YCL would look to begin consultations with the Department of Labour as soon as possible with a view to a new investigation.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

NUM members march to Eskom

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) members employed at Eskom marched to the utility in Matlosana, North West, yesterday, the union said. Spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka said that the march was part of a build-up to a national action, which would be announced in due course. The workers were marching over issues relating to housing allowances, the absorption of temporary workers and the impending tariff hikes proposed by Eskom. Members were sending a clear message that they were running out of patience, a union spokesperson said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

New workplace equity law

Legislation will be passed this year to ensure companies comply with employment equity policy, the Labour Department's Director-General said in Pretoria yesterday. "It's going through Parliamentary processes... but this year it's going to happen," said Jimmy Manyi, who is also Black Management Forum President, at a public lecture at the Tshwane University of Technology on workplace transformation.

TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

Denel snubs trade unions with refusal to talk

Denel, the defence parastatal, is heading for a showdown with trade unions after deciding to implement a "cost of living" adjustment of 4% across the group and not to enter into wage negotiations with the unions. Castro Ngobese, the spokesperson for the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa), warned yesterday that Denel's management must be prepared for "a long summer holiday" because workers had the right to negotiate for better conditions of employment and wages. Ngobese said Denel's board could not unilaterally implement a wage increase without negotiating with the unions. Numsa was strongly opposed to this and if necessary would "go to the streets". "The board should be conscious that the cost of living is high and inequality in the country is high... and it is unacceptable that workers are paid peanuts. The workers have not squandered money, it is the executive of Denel."

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Govt 'must come clean'

Cosatu on Monday urged all government ministers and political leaders to submit to a lifestyle audit to show they were free of corruption. It said the lifestyles of some ministers showed they may be abusing their official positions to enrich themselves. A flashy lifestyle does not mean you are corrupt but if Cosatu's plans go through, some ministers may find themselves in hot water. Communications Minister Siphwe Nyanda's security company was embroiled in the Siyabonga Gama saga at Transnet, while Deputy Arts Minister Paul Mashatile faced allegations of corruption linked to what was called the 'Alex mafia' for some time. His boss Lulu Xingwana was accused of handing over Land Bank money to a farmer's union while at land affairs but Tokyo Sexwale, presumably the richest person in cabinet, should have a defence. He was deployed to business and said he cut ties with his companies.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 08:00; IAFRICA.COM

NEWS BRIEF

Transnet Football School of Excellence under spotlight

The South African Football Association (Safa) and Transnet are working on a turnaround strategy to return the Safa Transnet Football School of Excellence to its former glory. Safa has already applied for funding from FIFA to bail out the ailing institution. The School of Excellence was established 16 years ago and has produced more than 50 professional players. Some even went on to play for Bafana Bafana. The school has not produced a star player since SuperSport United and Bafana Bafana winger Daine Klate and academically, pupils are struggling. The school has 114 learners from grade eight to 12, seven teachers and four coaches.

"Today (Monday) is the closing date for the application of funding at FIFA. We just got a letter from FIFA acknowledging that they are considering helping us financially through the gold project. Things are not going well at the moment but we can't be pointing fingers," says Safa Deputy President Mandla Mazibuko.

SABCNEWS.COM

Airport helicopter crash

A helicopter has crashed at Rand Airport in Germiston on Tuesday, airport management said. Airport manager Anton Kruger said a pilot and a student were on a training flight when the helicopter crashed. "We do not know the cause of the accident. The pilot and student were not injured," he said.

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS

SA roads same as the rest of the world

A South African road agency claims South Africa's national road network is in good condition and comparable to anywhere in the world. Recent reports have been critical of the way secondary roads are being maintained. The agency however, says national roads are under routine maintenance but admits upgrades are needed to deal with growing demands and growth of traffic.

SAfm NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

Powerball 'winner' a hoax

The Western Cape man who claimed he won the R91 million Powerball draw last weekend is a fraud - and the true winners are keeping their identity secret. The national lottery operating company, Gidani revealed yesterday that Stanley Philander's ticket was bought on Saturday at about 08:30 - the morning after the Powerball draw (Friday night). Yesterday, Gidani's Chief Executive, Bongani Khumalo, clarified at a media conference that the Philander claim was "a hoax" and that another Western Cape family is R91 million richer. A 43-year-old woman played Powerball for the first time and won. The woman wants to remain anonymous but Gidani said she is married with two-teenaged children. The couple booked into a hotel after their win and do not plan to tell anyone, not even their children, about the win.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition); THE TIMES

HEALTH NEWS

Vuvuzela-shaped earplugs to protect against noise

Earplugs are the answer to the excessive vuvuzela noise expected at 2010 World Cup matches, the African Earplug Company said on Monday. "A prototype, high-quality vuvuzela-shaped earplug, which comes in various colours, is in the final stage of completion," said company spokesperson Andrew Chin in a statement. Chin said that the decision to produce vuvuzela-shaped earplugs is a patriotic one, intended to embrace the instrument and to provide ear protection to those who want it.

WITNESS, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA, NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Swine flu is 'biggest nightmare' for Health Department

Swine flu will be one of the Department of Health's "biggest nightmares" during the 2010 World Cup, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said in the National Assembly on Monday. "One of our biggest nightmares is the fact that 2010 is going to be held in June when there is a possibility of another bout of H1N1. Many people will be together in South Africa... This is going to be a challenge to us," said Motsoaledi. He was speaking during a debate on President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation address. Motsoaledi said that the department had 1.3-million doses of H1N1 vaccines and had been given another 3.5-million by the World Health Organisation. "We are going to be vaccinating all who are selected, starting with pregnant women, people at entry points, people who are involved in sport administration."

SOWETAN (Late Final), SPORT24.CO.ZA, PROJECT2010.CO.ZA; eNews @ 19:00

Government failing kidney patients

The public health system is failing hundreds of kidney patients in needs of treatment. State doctors say they have to turn away 60 percent of patients applying for dialysis; many of whom have treatable conditions if only there were enough staff to help them. According to Prof Brian Rayner of Groote Schuur Hospital, one shouldn't really die of kidney failure because there are tools to treat it. Health Ministry admits that staff and resource shortages are letting patients down and that they have told provincial departments to prioritise filling vacant posts this year. Although government are making effort, doctors still say six out of every ten patients seeking renal treatment are being turned away.

eNews @ 19:00

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Fans to fork out for shuttle service

Football fans watching the 2010 World Cup in Johannesburg face the prospect of yet another expense. The only question is: At what cost? The City of Joburg's iTransie to Ellis Park, otherwise known as Park 'n Ride, has now become a paid-for service, and ticket holders may have to pay up to R100 per head for transport to the stadium. The service was free during the 2009 Confederations Cup, but the council paid about R7 million for it. This year, though, when 15 of the 64 World Cup games are staged here, the City of Joburg says it does not have the money to pay for the service, which is expected to cost more than R14 million. Instead, the cost will be picked up by fans, who are already paying R140 for the cheapest seat at Ellis Park, up to R1 200 for official replica jerseys and over R2 000 for airfares between cities.

IOL.CO.ZA

Evictees win temporary reprieve

About 1 000 inner-city residents evicted from a building near the Coca-Cola Park rugby stadium on Friday were temporarily allowed to return to their homes after they went to court on Monday to fight the eviction, which they said was unlawful. The residents of the Chambers block of flats in New Doornfontein spent the weekend on the street after the Red Ants removed them from the building on Friday afternoon. Some of the residents are physically disabled and 112 of them are blind. The eviction comes amid concern about the implications of the upcoming 2010 World Cup for poor inner-city residents. Coca-Cola Park is one of the match venues for the World Cup. Many of the buildings in the Doornfontein area have been neglected by their owners for years, and have been lawfully and unlawfully occupied by the poor. Now they are prime property.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

City of Cape Town says it needs more fire services

The City of Cape Town says unless it gets more fire service staff to do safety inspections, scores of backpackers and other hospitality facilities may not comply with safety regulations. This could prove disastrous if a fire broke out at one of the World Cup venues. This is according to Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security, JP Smith. He said that the city needs more staff.

CAPE TIMES

Illegal shebeen owners want a livelihood

Illegal shebeen owners in the Western Cape say a clampdown on their businesses has had a negative effect on their livelihoods and have demanded that they be given licenses to trade. The Western Cape Shebeen Association yesterday met with Finance MEC Alan Winde to iron out problems caused by the Western Cape Liquor Act as well as a way forward. The department will be putting out a joint press release with the association today.

CAPE TIMES

Municipality to spend millions on water pipes

The Ilembe District Municipality and the KwaDukuza Municipality will spend R100 million to replace old water pipes as almost half of piped water is being lost each year in the region due to an ailing, leaky water reticulation system. The R30 million first phase of the project started in January and will see 16km of new piping installed in KwaDukuza's central business district by the end of August. KwaDukuza Mayor Thulani Khuluse said that the new PVC pipe infrastructure will provide the area with a reliable supply of water and reduce interruptions to water supplies.

MERCURY, Network

City of Cape Town anti-land invasion causes arrest

Two people were injured and three were arrested when they stoned Cape Town anti-land invasion unit officials removing illegal structures in Scottsdene yesterday. This is according to City of Cape Town spokesperson Neil Arendse who said a group of about 30 people stoned officials while they were removing two illegal structures in Ashbury Court. Three people were arrested and charged with public violence and intimidation.

CAPE TIMES

Seventeen arrested during service delivery protest

Seventeen people were apprehended during a service delivery protest which turned violent in Newcastle's Bloubosch area yesterday morning. The protesters, who had complained about the local municipality's poor service delivery, had secured a permit to march to the Newcastle municipal offices. The Democratic Alliance (DA) in the area said that the community members of Osizweni in Northern KwaZulu-Natal have been deprived of service delivery because the municipality and landlords have failed to reach an agreement about the sale of land in Bloubosch.

WITNESS

Power controllers explode

A transformer at 346 Prince Alfred Street exploded and caught alight at the same time as a switch room at the corner of Prince Alfred and Retief Streets went up in smoke yesterday afternoon. Msunduzi Municipality Electricity Process Manager, Maxwell Mthembu, said that it is strange to have three power controllers explode simultaneously. Mthembu said that an investigation to establish the cause of the explosions will be conducted.

WITNESS

Speculation over Haswell's absence

Msunduzi Municipal Manager Rob Haswell's absence from work since last Wednesday has got people talking. Speculation at the municipality is that he was avoiding Monday's announcement about the embattled council's financial state. A Manager in his office, Madeleine Jackson-Plaatjies, said that Haswell was admitted to hospital last Wednesday for chest pains and has been given sick leave until 28 February.

WITNESS

Service delivery protests in KZN

There were service delivery protests in Newcastle and KwaDukuza yesterday. Residents had to skip school and work as protesters blocked off roads. Police spokesperson, Vincent Mdunge, said that about 300 residents of Shakaville, KwaDukuza had protested that their Ward Councillor, Thulani Khuluse, did not reside in the area and was therefore unaware of their needs, which included the lack of housing. KwaZulu-Natal Co-operative Governance Department spokesperson, Lennox Mabaso, said that action will be taken against councillors who did not reside in their wards.

MERCURY

MEC to charge municipalities

KwaZulu-Natal Co-operative Governance MEC Nomusa Dube said that she intends to charge the Umkhanyakude District Municipality and the Endumeni Local Municipality with financial misconduct. The two municipalities had regularly failed to provide financial statements on time to the provincial government and auditor general. KZN Co-operative Governance Department spokesperson, Vernon Mchunu, said that a probe had revealed that about R100 million had been lost as a result of financial mismanagement at KZN municipalities.

MERCURY

Municipality opposed to plans

The eThekweni Municipality is opposed to plans to dump tons of biohazardous medical waste in the Durban area, unless the waste is decontaminated beforehand. The municipality said that it would call for a full environmental impact assessment as the health risks of medical waste were well known. The eThekweni council said that the medical waste could not be treated as ordinary waste due to the risks of spreading diseases, injury, death and environmental pollution.

MERCURY

Kempton Park Welcome Village to be completed in April

The 2010 World Cup Welcome Village in Kempton Park, east of Johannesburg, is almost complete. Ekurhuleni Municipality spokesperson Zweli Dlamini said that construction is expected to be completed in April. The Municipality has spent R24 million on building the village and Dlamini said that it would be the first stop for visitors who make use of a shuttle service. "They will settle down here after a long flight and do all their booking, browsing and shopping," said Dlamini. Thatched huts with beautiful African designs will welcome visitors into the heart of an African village. The round "kraal" shape will give visitors a feeling of togetherness that Ekurhuleni extends to its guests. "There is an amphitheatre in the middle of the village where visitors can enjoy live performances all day, including music, street theatre, drumming and dance."

DAILY SUN

Joburg to be large camp-site for World Cup

Inflated prices for accommodation at the 2010 World Cup is forcing tour operators to think outside the box - or, in this case, the walls of a hotel or guesthouse. South African media reported on Monday that Johannesburg - venue of the opening game and final - would be endowed with a large camp-site for the month of the tournament. The Tent City camp-site, which will be erected in Waverley Park neighbourhood in the city's well-heeled northern suburbs, will have space for almost 1 500 people. Of these, 1 280 people will be able to rent space in 40 tents that will be subdivided into four- and six-bed all-male, all-female and mixed units, according to the City of Joburg website. A further 200 people will be allowed to pitch their own one-man tents. Tent City is aimed at football fans aged between 18 and 30, who find themselves priced out of traditional accommodation, according to the organisers.

IOL.CO.ZA

EDUCATION NEWS

Limpopo recruits Zim teachers

Limpopo authorities are hiring hundreds of Zimbabwean teachers to address a critical shortage in maths, science and commerce subjects. Education MEC Dickson Masemola says the department appointed 600 teachers from Zimbabwe. "We are providing an opportunity to Zimbabwean educators to enrol with the province through a very intensive process. The department is validating, verifying and making sure their particulars are authentic and on the base of that we award them performance employment contracts, which will be renewed annually," says Masemola.

5fm NEWS @ 07:00

Western Cape College of Nursing resumed operations

Teaching at the Western Cape College of Nursing resumed yesterday morning after violent student protests shut down the facility for more than two weeks. Faiza Steyn, spokesperson for the Western Cape Department of Health says the college's stringent new re-admission process had gone smoothly with the security at the college beefed up to avoid further disruptions.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Drugs in Western Cape schools a battle

Some schools in the Western Cape are being funded and run for the purposes of drug lords and tik addicts. This is according to Western Cape Health MEC Theuns Botha who said that his department has spoken to headmasters at schools where 40 percent of learners are tik addicts. Substance abuse was killing society, and unless the provincial government tackled the problem at a high level society was in serious trouble, not only through the loss of a generation, but in being unable to afford the consequences. Amanda Brinkmann, head of Premier Helen Zille's Department for Strategic Partners, said that the province would launch a comprehensive response to substance and alcohol abuse by the end of March.

CAPE TIMES

Who let him teach?

A convicted serial child molester was allowed to teach at primary schools at which he repeated his crimes against two pupils - because "he slipped through the cracks" and was not registered as a sexual offender. Yesterday, magistrate Adriaan found Stephen de Wet guilty of six charges relating to the sexual abuse of two boys at schools in Pretoria in 2008. It emerged in court yesterday that this is not the first time De Wet had been charged; in 2001 he was sentenced to six years in prison for assaulting a 10-year-old boy while teaching in Margate, on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast. This sentence was suspended for five years. In 2008, he was hired as a relief teacher and soccer coach and arrested nine months later on sexual abuse charges. De Wet remains in custody until his sentencing on 7 April.

THE TIMES

Students refuse to write exam

A group of students at the Umgungundlovu Further Education and Training College (FET) Northdale campus declined to write a life orientation (LO) paper yesterday after they were told about the test only an hour before they were supposed to write. The students said that they had to rewrite the paper because the Education Department had lost scripts from last year's LO final examination. FET spokesperson, Lynn Horan, said that the paper was the computer section of LO level two.

WITNESS

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

New land reform law for SA

South Africa will introduce new legislation to quicken reforms which have left the bulk of land still in white hands, a government minister said on Monday. Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti said current legislation was "admirable" but had failed to unlock an apartheid-era divide that saw whites owning 87 percent the nation's farmland. "Sadly... it is too fragmented to effectively address the centuries-old land question in South Africa", Nkwinti told Parliament. Draft legislation will soon be served to parliament, he said. Nkwinti says only 5 percent of the 82-million hectares have been bought by government.

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS; S Afrm NEWS EXTRA @ 11

'Nationalisation is not govt policy' - Zuma

President Jacob Zuma yesterday reassured investors that nationalisation was not on the government's agenda. In his reply to the debate on his State of the Nation speech, for the first time, Zuma addressed concerns expressed by opposition leaders on African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President Julius Malema's strident call for the nationalisation of mines. "We reiterate that nationalisation is not government policy," he said. Zuma's assurance puts to bed any hopes that the government would consider a policy on nationalisation soon, in spite of the youth league's claim that it is consulting the mining industry on the controversial policy. Zuma said that it had been noted that political formations, including the youth league, had decided to debate on nationalisation and he defended their democratic right to do so. He urged the opposition to enter this debate with Malema and to stop calling on the party leadership to silence him.

BUSINESS DAY (National), CITIZEN (Second Edition), eNews @ 19:00

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, Icasa hinted yesterday that it could take on cellphone operators on "astronomical pay-as-you-go rates". Chairperson Paris Mashile told Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Communications that an urgent need existed for competition in the pay-as-you-go market, which was used mainly by the poor. Telkom would cut the peak rates it charges on fixed-line calls to cellphones by 22% next month, saving its customers R1.3 billion, the fixed-line operator said yesterday. The decision follows the conclusion of an agreement between MTN, Vodacom and Cell C to cut the fees they charge for carrying rivals' calls. Legislation will be passed this year to ensure companies comply with employment equity policy, the Labour Department's Director-General Jimmy Manyi said in Pretoria yesterday. "It's going through Parliamentary processes... but this year it's going to happen."

NEWS REVIEWS

Telkom expects Yeoville online soon

Fixed-line operator Telkom expects to have restored all services to the Yeoville area by the end of the month. Services were disrupted when a gas explosion ripped through the area at the end of last month, injuring two people and destroying Telkom's building in the process. The company, which has confirmed through an independent forensic investigation that the blast was gas-related, has already restored critical services, such as to the South African Police Services, through alternate links. The damaged Yeoville exchange building is still inaccessible to Telkom as it has been declared unsafe by the Department of Labour. As an alternative, Telkom will build a containerised exchange in order to speed up service restoration initiatives.

ITWEB.CO.ZA

Interconnection rates- Telkom to save a R1bn

A new report by South Africa's Department of Communications says the three mobile network providers in the country will lose significant revenue once the new peak interconnection rates are implemented next month. The report states that Telkom, the sole landline services provider will benefit from the move. "It is estimated that Vodacom, Cell C and MTN will together lose R1 billion a year in revenue once the new peak interconnection rate is implemented by March 2010, while Telkom will save R1 billion annually. The possible benefits from an increased subscriber base and increased usage due to lower tariffs is yet to be determined. The peak mobile interconnection rate will be reduced from R1.25 cents per minute to 89 cents per minute."

ITNEWSAFRICA.COM

Icasa fails to finalise regulations

The Internet Service Providers' Association of South Africa (ISPA) is supporting the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa's (Icasa's) recent request for information from licensees but cautions that it will oppose any attempts by Icasa to take enforcement action against ISPA members for not commencing with these services. "ISPA believes that the regulator needs ready access to information from all licensed players if it is to effectively regulate the industry," says Dominic Cull, regulatory advisor to ISPA. "As such, we have urged all our members to comply with the request for information. However, we also believe that the ability of our members to exercise their rights and meet their obligations under their licences has been compromised by the regulator's failure to finalise a number of key regulations."

IT-ONLINE.CO.ZA

Telkom to cut call rates to cellphones 22%

Telkom would cut the peak rates it charges on fixed-line calls to cellphones by 22% next month, saving its customers R1.3 billion, the fixed-line operator said yesterday. The decision follows the conclusion of an agreement between MTN, Vodacom and Cell C to cut the fees they charge for carrying rivals' calls. The so-called interconnection fees will fall to 89c a minute during peak times on 1 March from R1.25, while off-peak rates will remain at 77c a minute. The charges will apply until the Independent Communications Authority of SA publishes tariff rules in June. Telkom will drop its peak rate for fixed-to-mobile calls by 36c to R1.29 a minute, it said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National); CITIZEN, Citi Business; STAR

Cellphone companies accused of dishonesty

Cellphone operators came under fire from MPs yesterday for trying to force the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) to agree not to review their fees until 2013 if they agreed to cut interconnection fees. Senior African National Congress (ANC) MP Johnny de Lange accused the companies of being dishonest and described their conduct as reprehensible, while Independent Democrats (ID) leader Patricia de Lille said their behaviour bordered on undermining Parliament. De Lange said the companies had been ill-advised by their lawyers to come up with a proposal that set down conditions. "Clearly, those lawyers must have colluded in this process... We need to look at these things" said De Lange.

STAR; PRETORIA NEWS

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, there is little chance that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan will pull a "rand rabbit" out of his hat today, but the rand might weaken more than South Africa's government bargains on if Gordhan imposes a Brazil-style tax on foreign capital inflows. Absa was in focus this morning as it reported a drop in headline earnings of 25.5% to 1 099.4c per share in the year to 31 December, as high levels of impairment bit into profit. It also slashed its dividend by a quarter and raised the prospect of continuing pain in the commercial sector, which was bedevilled by bad debt. In addition, Chief Executive of Absa, Maria Ramos said that it wants to bulk up its wealth business through inorganic growth to raise its competitive urge.

NEWS REVIEWS

Budget: 'No rand surprise'

There is little chance that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan will pull a "rand rabbit" out of his hat today. The past week saw speculation that Gordhan might announce measures to weaken the rand, after Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said that the rand debate was continuing and that Gordhan would soon make an announcement in that respect. The debate about the rand's strength began last October following reports that Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel was considering plans to fix the value of the rand to help exporters. Christie Viljoen, an economist at NKC Independent Economists, says he does not think many expect an announcement on the rand. Gordhan will certainly say something about the inflation target, he believes, but the way has certainly not been paved for a weakening of the rand or for the raising of inflation targets.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Gordhan's budget to give rand direction

The rand might weaken more than South Africa's government bargains on if Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan imposes a Brazil-style tax on foreign capital inflows when he delivers his budget today, RBC Capital Markets said yesterday. Trade Minister Rob Davies said yesterday that it was "no secret" that the country needs a more "competitive and stable currency", boosting speculation measures might be implemented to stem the rand's gains, which had slowed economic recovery by making the country's exports more expensive.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Timing of recovery uncertain - Ramos

Absa Group said that the economic recovery in South Africa this year is likely to be subdued. Local banks have been hit hard by rising bad debts over the past year as the country battled recession and consumers struggled to pay back loans. For instance, competitor Nedbank is expected to report a 25% to 35% slide in earnings next Thursday due to rising impairments. Absa's results for the year to December, which show attributable profit sliding 36% to R6.84 billion, are no exception to the trend. CEO Maria Ramos said yesterday that while the bank expected to grow earnings in the 2010 financial year, and economic recovery was inevitable, the timing of the recovery remained uncertain.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Black Sash looks to Gordhan for clarity

The Black Sash is eager to hear how Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan intends realising President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation promise to get South Africans back to work. The human rights watchdog said in a statement yesterday that it needs clarity from the Budget speech after the President's "vague" address last week. "Last week, President Zuma was frustratingly vague on how his government intends combating poverty and rising unemployment. Nothing is more important than the creation of decent jobs where there is currently massive unemployment and growing desperation," the Black Sash said. It added that it was crucial to re-awaken hope among young people, who were currently angry and filled with despair.

TIMES Business Times

Absa earnings fall as impairments bite

Absa Group said yesterday that headline earnings fell 25.5% to 1 099.4c per share in the year to 31 December as high levels of impairment bit into profit. Attributable profit fell 35.9% to R6.84 billion. South African banks have faced rising bad debts as consumer struggled to repay loans during last year's recession. Absa's owner, the UK-based Barclays, yesterday beat analyst expectations with earnings up 92% to £6.1 billion. Cadiz Asset Management analyst Rob Nagel said that Absa's earnings expectations had been well guided last year and therefore there had been no major surprises. Sanlam Asset Management portfolio manager Patrice Rassou said that Absa had done well to maintain costs, address its business more conservatively and build a base for better growth this year, although the sustainability of cutting bonuses needed to be questioned.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Hotels could stand empty before World Cup

A sharp slowdown in corporate travel could see some hotels standing virtually empty in the days before the Soccer World Cup in June and July. "While there is a perception the World Cup will make it impossible to find a room anywhere in SA, the truth is we have significant availability between 1 June and the start of the tournament. In fact, we have availability (during the Cup) that are far from the action (and) in host cities on certain off-peak days when matches are not being played," said Danny Bryer, Marketing and Revenue Director at Protea Hotels.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Minister should introduce tax breaks on property

In today's budget speech, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan should help improve levels of home ownership by reducing the heavy tax burden place on new home owners. Jonny Novick, MD of Vered Estates said that the tax system applied in South Africa makes the country one of the most expensive in which to own property. Novick said SA could learn a lot from the US and European property markets, which have tax laws in place that help to encourage levels of home ownership among their citizens. In the US, for example, homeowners are offered a tax break on the interest on a home loan - known as a mortgage interest tax deduction. He added that a similar system should be introduced in SA.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

South Africa head into the fourth day of the second Test against India today with it all to do in their quest to regain the No 1 spot in the ICC Test rankings - and finish the season as the No 1 Test team - after the hosts took control with a dominant batting performance yesterday. India piled on a massive 643/6 declared in their first innings, all but eliminating the possibility of a South African victory while placing themselves in the perfect position to do just that. The only outcome the Proteas can hope for now is a draw - which will be sufficient for them to go top of the rankings - but this will not be an easy task. The first order of business for SA's batsmen will be to eliminate the 347-run deficit, and only thereafter can they consider the possibility of a result.

News Reviews

Three changes for Lions

Lions coach Dick Muir has made three changes to the starting line-up that went down 26-13 to the Stormers last weekend for Friday's Super 14 match against the Chiefs in Johannesburg. Derrick Minnie replaces Franco van der Merwe at flank, with the latter moving to lock in place of Jacques Lombard, while Todd Clever comes in for Jonathan Mokuena. Lombard and Mokuena have been named on the bench.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Cosmos edge closer to relegation

Jomo Cosmos edged nearer to relegation from the Absa Premiership following a 1-0 defeat to Ajax Cape Town last night.

STAR, Sport

United draw first blood

A brace from Wayne Rooney helped Manchester United to a 3-2 win in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie against AC Milan last night.

In the night's other last 16 clash, Olympique Lyon beat Real Madrid 1-0.

THE TIMES

India take control

Centuries from VVS Laxman and Mahendra Singh Dhoni placed India in complete control of the second Test against South Africa in Kolkata yesterday as the hosts declared their first innings on a record 643/6 shortly before the close of the third day's play. In reply, the Proteas reached 6/0 in their second innings, still trailing by 347 runs.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

INDICATORS

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| Rand - Dollar \$ | 7.6777 | (+0.0457) |
| Rand - Sterling £ | 12.0095 | (+0.0799) |
| Rand - Euro € | 10.4839 | (+0.0099) |
| JSE Allshare | 26939.8 | (+238.44) |
| Gold | 1115.2 | (+17.00) |
| Platinum | 1534.0 | (+21.00) |
| Brent Crude Oil | 74.7 | (+2.19) |

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

WEATHER

| | | |
|------------------|----|------|
| Bloemfontein | 16 | (28) |
| Cape Town | 14 | (23) |
| Durban | 21 | (25) |
| East London | 17 | (22) |
| Johannesburg | 17 | (25) |
| Kimberley | 12 | (30) |
| Mafikeng | 17 | (32) |
| Nelspruit | 20 | (27) |
| Pietermaritzburg | 17 | (21) |
| Polokwane | 16 | (26) |
| Port Elizabeth | 16 | (21) |
| Pretoria | 20 | (26) |