

THE FRONT PAGE

Julius Malema dominated headlines again this morning, with the ANCyl leader claiming that senior leaders in the ruling party are in cahoots with mining companies to oust him. Malema has also blamed the government companies register, a smear campaign run by leftist ANC officials and "unethical" journalists for putting his life and that of his family in danger. In another report, a company search done late yesterday has shown Malema as a director of at least four companies; this despite him claiming the contrary. In other news, SA's leading indicator for the business cycle surged in December while the pace of company failures slowed last month, adding to evidence the economic recovery is gathering momentum.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: Julius Malema has blamed the government companies register, a smear campaign run by leftist African National Congress (ANC) officials and "unethical" journalists for "unfounded" media reports that he says have placed his life and that of his family in danger; Eskom revealed yesterday, how its board was forced to fire its "dishonest" former CEO Jacob Maroga after he reneged on his resignation; after nearly five years in court defending sex charges against her, Cezanne Visser - nicknamed Advocate Barbie - is to be sentenced in the Pretoria High Court tomorrow; first it was residents discharging their swimming pool water into Johannesburg streets that was causing potholes across the city, now it is taxi drivers washing their vehicles.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Malema fears kidnapping

Julius Malema has blamed the government companies register, a smear campaign run by leftist African National Congress (ANC) officials and "unethical" journalists for "unfounded" media reports that he says have placed his life and that of his family in danger. Addressing the media at Luthuli House in Johannesburg yesterday, the ANC Youth League (ANCyl) leader angrily suggested criminals would now target him after weekend reports about his lifestyle. "You come here and make allegations. And you put my child at risk, and my child can be kidnapped because I've got R140 million and people will demand R10 million from me because I've got R140 million," said Malema. He claimed to have never seen a million rand and that his bank balance had never reflected such an amount. Malema spent nearly two hours trashing some media for allegedly plotting his demise.

STAR; TIMESLIVE.CO.ZA - TIMES LIVE

Eskom says Maroga was dishonest

Eskom revealed yesterday, how its board was forced to fire its "dishonest" former CEO Jacob Maroga after he reneged on his resignation. In court papers opposing an R85.7 million claim by Maroga, Eskom sheds light for the first time on events leading to a bruising leadership battle in which the African National Congress Youth League and the Black Management Forum leapt to Maroga's defence while the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Union of Mineworkers defended former Eskom Chairperson Bobby Godsell against claims of racism. In its response to Maroga's claim for R85.7 million or reinstatement, Eskom unveiled details of a week in drama in October during which Maroga resigned, then changed his mind and plunged the utility into crisis.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Now taxi washbays blamed for potholes

First it was residents discharging their swimming pool water into Johannesburg streets that was causing potholes across the city. Now it is taxi drivers washing their vehicles. This is the latest explanation offered by the Joburg Roads Agency (JRA) in response to questions about the deteriorating state of roads in Diepsloot. Four months ago, the City of Joburg spent R4.3 million on tarring dirt roads in the township, but today, half-metre deep culverts run on either side of the road.

STAR; PRETORIA NEWS

POLITICAL NEWS

Malema called to answer for lavish lifestyle

Pressure is building on African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) leader Julius Malema to undergo a lifestyle audit, with teachers' union Sadtu, becoming the first alliance formation to demand he explain where he gets his money. The Sunday Times and the City Press reported Malema was a director of companies that benefited from deals with several Limpopo municipalities. Sadtu's General Secretary Mugwena Mululeke said Malema must explain where his money came from. Opposition parties agreed, while the ANC said this was a youth league matter. The party's Brian Sokutu said Malema had not broken any law.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00; SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 07:00; 5FM NEWS @ 07:00; MAIL & GUARDIAN; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Malema puts the record straight

African National Congress Youth Leader (ANCyl) Julius Malema has spoken out against "misrepresentations and lies" spread through newspapers. The Youth League called a media conference yesterday after media reports that his lavish lifestyle was being bankrolled by lucrative government contracts awarded to companies he has interests in. The Sunday Times reported that Malema's companies were awarded more than 20 contracts, worth between R500 000 and R39 million between 2007 and 2008. Malema said he was not going to "dignify these misrepresentations and lies" with comment, but said he needed to clarify allegations so that ANC supporters are not fed wrong and misleading information. Malema said he has nothing to hide, and wanted to "put the record straight". Malema has also vowed to take legal action against newspapers including The Star for what he terms the lies they have spread about him.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; IOL.CO.ZA; SAFM NEWS @ 13:00; ENEWS @ 19:00

Malema sings new tune on nationalisation

In an apparent climb-down yesterday, African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) leader Julius Malema - against a background of his unexplained wealth - told a media briefing the league's push for the nationalisation of mines in South Africa amounted to "public-private partnerships". But this stance sits uncomfortably with the expropriation model for state ownership that the league punts in its position paper: "The manner in which nationalisation will be approached will neither be generalised compensation nor generalised expropriation without compensation. Expropriation without compensation should apply for mines that are not profitable, laying off huge numbers of workers and in financial crises". Malema said the youth league's position paper on nationalisation did not call for "total" state ownership.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Taxman, protector urged to start probe

The revelations over Julius Malema's lavish lifestyle have prompted a furious backlash from trade unions and opposition parties and yesterday Afri-Forum referred the matter to the Public Prosecutor and the taxman. South African Revenue Service (SARS) spokesperson declined to discuss the matter, saying the Income Tax Act explicitly prohibits him from discussing individual tax issues with anyone other than the affected taxpayer until such matters have been to court. Constitutional Law Expert Professor Pierre de Vos said although it appears Malema has not acted illegally, it was still problematic.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Eight escape at Westville Prison

KwaZulu Natal police say all eight dangerous inmates who escaped from the Westville prison in Durban are still at large. Earlier reports said that five of them had been arrested, however, police spokesperson Phindile Hadebe says only one prisoner was recaptured after injuring himself while attempting the escape. She says police officers have launched a manhunt for the convicts. The inmates allegedly broke out by cutting through the prison's metal bars during a prayer service. They are serving sentences for murder and rape.

eNews Prime reports that the prisoners escaped through the roof of their cell.

SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

SA army ready for 'any eventuality' at World Cup

The South African army is ready to deal with any threat to the security and sovereignty of the country during the 2010 World Cup, the chief of the army has said. "We have prepared ourselves for any eventuality," Lieutenant-General Solly Shoke said. Shoke was speaking at an open day staged by the army's airborne forces at the Bloemspruit air force base in the Free State. He was confident of the skills and agility demonstrated by the army's airborne forces during Exercise Young Eagle. The exercise demonstrated the skills of the air force and their readiness to deal with the threat of terror during the World Cup. It simulated a hostage-taking as a "worst case scenario".

SOWETAN (Late Final), PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

City crackdown to rid the streets of sex workers

A City of Cape Town crackdown to rid the streets of sex workers had not reduced their numbers. This is according to the Sex Workers Education Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT). This follows the arrests of three illegal immigrants suspected of being sex workers. SWEAT's Vivienne Lulu contends that the clampdown will only drive more sex workers underground. Neil Arendse, spokesperson for the City of Cape Town's specialised law enforcement services said that the city would investigate where the women arrested had been trafficked to South Africa from, as they did not have immigration documents.

CAPE TIMES

Chevrolet displays toughness in programme for SAPS

Over the past 12 months, General Motors South Africa (GMSA) has provided support for the advanced driver training of a group of 2 200 members of the SAPS. The course, designed and administered by the Driving Dynamics organisation, has been tailored around the need to enhance the driving skills of operational members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), to better prepare them for their important role in our society. This intense training programme comes ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup and has specifically targeted members of the Flying Squad, Police Dog Unit, Crime Combating Unit, and the elite Special Task Force, who will be at the forefront of ensuring the highest level of security and crime prevention during this massive international event. GMSA provides 7 vehicles for the programme with the passenger vehicles being drawn from the Chevrolet range.

NEWS REVIEWS

Mandoza's friend held for fraud

The owner of the car that kwaito star Mandoza crashed a week ago was arrested for his alleged involvement in an asset fraud syndicate, the Hawks said yesterday. Musa Zondi, spokesperson for the police's special investigations unit, the Hawks, said the man was arrested along with eight others in Honeydew late on Thursday night. The men, who were mainly Zimbabwean nationals, allegedly stole people's identities, took out loans at banks to buy property and vehicles and resold the assets again. When the banks tried to trace the owners, they ran into a wall. The Times newspaper reported the investigation started when police found the Mini Cooper in which Mandoza, whose real name was Mduzuzi Tshabalala, was injured when it crashed into a tree in Weltevreden Park last week.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 10:00; SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 12:00

DA concerned about SA's border control measures

The Democratic Alliance (DA) on Sunday raised concerns about security control measures along South Africa's borders for the 2010 World Cup. It said that Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu should reject the military's "hopelessly inadequate" proposal for taking over the borderline security function, because it would result in fewer members of security services patrolling the borders. "This raises serious doubts about whether our borders will be properly protected during World Cup 2010," said DA MP David Maynier. He added that borderline security is "a huge gaping hole" in the national security of SA. As a result, the DA said it will call on Sisulu to deploy more soldiers along South Africa's borders "with immediate effect".

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Police finally bust housebreaking gang

Police believe they have bust a gang who have been terrorising northern Johannesburg residents, pouncing in the early hours of the morning while their victims were asleep. The gang's favourite times are alleged to have been between 01:00 and 03:30. But it seems Lady Luck deserted some of the members yesterday morning, shortly after they are alleged to have robbed a Strathavon resident just after 01:00. Two alleged members of the gang were arrested in the street still carrying goods and two more are still at large. Inspector Moses Maphakela of the Sandton police said law enforcement agents were trying to determine whether the men were involved in a spate of 23 housebreaking and theft incidents and nine house robberies in the Sandton area.

STAR

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

Security companies accused of breaking labour laws

Sixty four out of a 155 security companies have been found to be noncompliant to South African labour laws in the North West. The Provincial Labour Department conducted a five-day inspection at companies within the province. The department says workers in the sector are still exposed to exploitation.

5FM NEWS @ 07:00

Aurora workers being paid late, health care poor

Workers at a mine operated by Aurora Empowerment Systems were being paid late and were "angry" over food and health care arrangements, the country's largest labour groups said yesterday. Mineworkers at the No. 4 shaft of the Orkney mine, operated by Aurora, were not being paid on time, were working underground without food, and the health care provided did not meet worker needs, said the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu). Aurora's Managing Director, Zondwa Mandela, could not immediately comment. Lesiba Seshoka, spokesperson for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said that some workers were paid late and some were not being paid at all. It was also "upsetting" that workers could not take food underground, he said.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star), BUSINESS DAY (National)

NEWS BRIEF

Zapping the president

A Facebook group popped up in response to the arrest of a UCT student, Chumani Maxwele, over allegations that he showed President Zuma's presidential convoy the finger. The group, called 'Zapping the Presidential Convoy', has been set up in response to the harsh treatment of the student and the perceived abuse of the right to freedom of expression. Under the 'description' category, the group carries the following explanation: "Help preserve our freedom of expression and save SA from being turned into a police state! We have the right to freedom of speech! If a citizen wishes to express their annoyance in the form of a swear word or zap sign they should be able to do so; even towards the president. We do not wish to encourage hate speech but must protest against the presidential convoy's reaction!" And the aim? Get as many people as possible to zap the presidential motorcade in protest.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

German businessman still missing

South African and German authorities are working with Interpol to locate missing businessman, Uwe Gemballa who disappeared in Johannesburg two weeks ago. Gemballa, famed for converting high performance cars, was last heard from after landing at OR Tambo International Airport. It is feared he may have been kidnapped but there is also speculation he is on the run from German authorities for possible tax evasion. The police's Vish Naidoo said the investigation was at a sensitive stage. Former president of the National Porsche Club Jerry Barnard said Gemballa was well-respected and popular among car enthusiasts.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 10:00; EWN.CO.ZA; IAFRICA.COM

Nersa to make decision on Eskom hikes tomorrow

The National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) will announce its decision on Eskom's tariff application tomorrow. A media briefing will take place at noon in Pretoria at which Nersa will give its view on the Multi-Year Price Determination 2010/11 to 2013/13. Business Unity SA (Busa) CEO Jerry Vilakazi told Nersa's haring in Gauteng that if the increase were accepted by the regulator, "we can wave goodbye to an immediate recovery for South Africa's economy". The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), the SA Communist Party (SACP), the SA National Civic Organisation, the Young Communist League (YCL) and the Treatment Action Campaign all allege that Nersa has already decided to grant Eskom its 35% tariff hike and that the public hearings were simply to comply with the law. The SA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sacci) has estimated that the 35% hike could push inflation up by about 10%.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Learners licences valid for 2 years

Learners' licences are to be valid for two years instead of 18 months, the Transport of Department has announced. It also extended testing hours for licences to 17:00 on Saturdays and from 07:00 to 13:00 on Sundays, it said. "These measures form part of government's efforts to improve service delivery and will enable us to provide a better service to driving licence applications," it said. The department been criticised as thousands of learner drivers have been unable to obtain dates for their driving tests before their licences expire.

PRETORIA NEWS

Low-cost housing with plastic

As many South Africans struggle with chronic shortage of low-cost housing, a company has stepped in to help the poor build their own houses at relatively low cost. Stumblebloc, brainchild of Andre Esterhuizen, hopes to fill the gap in low-cost housing by reducing the cost of materials to construct homes. "Stumbelbloc was invented to give anyone with limited skills and limited means the opportunity to build their own home in a cost effective way," said Esterhuizen. What sets the product apart from other low-cost housing products is that the blocks are made with plastic moulds that are filled with a mortar mix and left to dry. No skilled labour is required and only a bare minimum of training is necessary. The only tools needed for making a block are a shovel for mixing and a builder's trowel for finishing, said Esterhuizen.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Visser set to learn her fate tomorrow

After nearly five years in court defending sex charges against her, Cezanne Visser - nicknamed Advocate Barbie - is to be sentenced in the Pretoria High Court tomorrow. Yesterday, the blonde 32-year-old former advocate seemed much better than 11 days ago, when the case against her was postponed, after she collapsed and had to be sedated. The only thing left for Acting Judge Chris Eksteen to determine is the power her former lover, Dirk Prinsloo, had over her. The defence has claimed she was such a victim herself that she had no choice but to commit the crimes she has been convicted of.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Authorities call for all pools to be protected area

Authorities have once again sounded the alarm about pool safety, following the drowning of five children in Gauteng, this month alone. Yesterday, a mother was dealt a double blow when both her children drowned in an unprotected swimming pool. New legislation is currently at a draft stage to make it compulsory for all swimming pools to have protective netting or a lockable fence.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

HEALTH NEWS

Chris Hani-Baragwanath ready for masses during WC

Gauteng's largest hospital, Chris Hani-Baragwanath, is ready to service the tens-of-thousands of fans expected to visit the Soccer City stadium. So said Deputy Health Minister Molefi Sefularo during a series of inspections of health facilities ahead of the World Cup in Johannesburg on Saturday. Sefularo was with a delegation comprising Gauteng Health MEC Qedani Mahlangu and SA Military Health Services Surgeon-General Dr Vejay Ramlakan. Sefularo toured the new trauma unit at the Soweto hospital, which he said was "ready to serve people in better ways than they were served before". "We are very satisfied that we will be able to serve the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 World Cup," he said.

STAR

Aids, malaria, TB on WC agenda at conference

The 2010 FIFA World Cup will present a platform to mount an offensive against malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/Aids on the African continent. The pledge was made by Michael D'Hooghe, Chairperson of the FIFA Medical Committee at the third International Football Medicine Conference in Rustenburg. "We must use this World Cup to fight the big three in Africa. We must fight against malaria, TB and HIV/Aids. We are here to learn about this continent; we will have to listen to African health practitioners and see how best we can exchange ideas to improve the game," he said. Delegates from the African continent and the world, including representatives of the 32 teams participating in the 2010 World Cup attended the conference. D'Hooghe also said that African football should be the biggest beneficiary during and after the World Cup.

DAILY SUN

End Polio Now campaign to start in Cape Town

Along with other international cities, Cape Town will illuminate historic landmarks to support Rotary International's pledge to rid the world of polio. The campaign called End Polio Now represents the Rotary's pledge to rid the world of this crippling childhood disease on the eve of the organisation's 105th anniversary today. Landmarks around the world will be emblazoned by the words End Polio Now for a week. The V&A Waterfront in Cape Town will be illuminated, this as the planet-wide event will start in Cape Town.

CAPE TIMES

Fronting claim prompts raid

Allegations of fronting and fraud prompted a raid by the commercial crimes unit of the South African Police Service (SAPS) of medical waste disposal business Compass Waste Services. The business is the focus of an investigation by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and the police after the police seized documents and computers from its head office in Durban on Friday. Compass Waste Services is alleged to have used a business called Sharpsafe that it set up to secure contracts on the basis that the firm was black owned. But it is alleged that Compass Waste Services owns the business. A senior manager at the provincial Department of Health confirmed yesterday that an investigation into Compass Waste Services in conjunction with the SAPS's commercial crimes unit was now underway.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Locals are World Cup's biggest health risk

South Africans may pose the biggest problem to health care services during the 2010 World Cup, health officials said on Saturday. Professor Jacque Goosen, Head of Trauma at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, said that violence related to alcohol abuse presented the biggest challenge to health care services. "Community parties during sport events are a problem, not the people within the stadiums," said Goosen. Goosen hosted a delegation on Saturday of health officials, including the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Molefi Sefularo, on a tour of state hospitals to inspect their readiness for the World Cup on Saturday. Injuries due to stabbing, shooting, falling from buildings and motor vehicle accidents increased during sporting events, Goosen said. "Fan Parks will be a source of pain," said Gauteng Health MEC, Qedani Mahlangu.

IOL.CO.ZA

Departments join forces for 2010 World Cup

The SA Military Health Services will not take over from the Department of Health during the 2010 World Cup, Deputy Health Minister Molefi Sefularo said on Friday. He said that the department and the SA Military Health Services would tighten their co-operation ahead of the June event. "The arrangement is aimed at filling any materials or personnel gaps that we may confront during the tournament. Please note that this does not amount to a handover to the Military Health Services. We are not preparing for a state of emergency," he said in a speech prepared for delivery at an international football medicine conference in Sun City. "We are only deepening our capacity and reducing to the barest minimum any chances that we may be surprised or stretched beyond our capacity as the public and private health sector." He said they would also like to eliminate as much red tape as possible involved in jurisdictional borders amongst national, provincial and local authorities and personnel.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

New rule on blood supplies in effect

If you're not on medical aid, and find yourself being treated at a private hospital and in the need for blood, ensure that you have the money, because you will need to pay for the blood upfront. And if you or your treating doctor cannot pay, you will be sent to a public hospital where "blood products and services are provided as part of the public healthcare services". The SA National Blood Service (SANBS) has, as of 1 February, mandated private healthcare institutions to ensure proof of payment from non-medical aid patients before the blood is administered.

STAR

Expose leads to illegal abortionist's arrest

An Eyewitness News undercover investigation has exposed a man who was pocketing thousands of rand from heavily pregnant women by promising illegal abortions in government hospitals. The man claimed to be a medical student with a network of state employed gynaecologists and nurses on the take - none of which was true. Eyewitness News alerted police and he and the "fake doctor" were arrested. The man, known only as Gift, was one of four abortion advertisers in a daily newspaper willing to do an illegal procedure on a six-and-a-half month pregnant woman.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Accreditation process for metered taxis under way

With the 2010 World Cup fast approaching, public transport governing body, the eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA), and the eThekweni Metro Police are once again embarking on an accreditation process for metered taxis, to ensure a decent and satisfactory level of service from this public transport sector. Once the taxis are accredited, passengers, particularly tourists, can be assured of comfortable travel in a roadworthy vehicle. This initiative began in 1995 and was initially carried out every second year; however, the eThekweni Municipality has changed this to a yearly accreditation process. The ETA's Public Transport Department: Chief Engineering Technician Nathi Sibisi says that metered taxis operate differently to any other public transport systems. "The minibus taxi industry is regulated through another system, known as the taxi recapitalisation programme, which encourages the scrapping of an old vehicle and the grant of R50 000 towards the buying of a new vehicle. These vehicles are of a certain standard and comply with strict government regulation," he says.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA

Gauteng legislature officially opened

Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane will address the provincial legislature soon. Her State of the Province address marks the official opening of the legislature. Mokonyane was saluted by police officers and the SAPS band when she arrived. She focused on the upcoming FIFA Soccer World Cup, health and education in her address. The Premier says investment in public infrastructure development will remain key priority. Gauteng will continue to promote labour intensive projects to stimulate job creation.

EWN.CO.ZA; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Protesting residents 'fed up'

A group of Orange Farm residents say they are tired of being sidelined during development programmes that they believe are skewed towards the rich, said a spokesperson at a blockade on Johannesburg's Golden Highway on Monday. "People are sick and tired, people are fed up," said Bricks Moloko an organiser for the Orange Farm Water Crisis Committee. "We are told that we need to give the government a chance and each time they change the president we are told to give him a chance," said Moloko as several hundred people who had been up since 01:00 sang their demands around burning tyres, with police looking on.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; STAR; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 06:00

Revenue Management System for eThekweni

The cost of the new revenue management system for the eThekweni Municipality is expected to rise to R485 million from an initial cost of R90 million to R150 million. The project was first mooted in October 2003, when a report indicated that the municipality would buy a product - Virtual Works on which to base the new system. Its owner, India-based Ramco Systems was to be taken on as a strategic partner. Opposition parties have criticised the municipality's decision to develop the system in-house, saying a commercially available system would have been less costly and implemented sooner.

MERCURY

City of Cape Town came under attack in Khayelitsha

The City of Cape Town came under attack as angry Khayelitsha residents living in informal settlements, vented their anger over the lack of services delivery in their areas yesterday. Hundreds packed the OR Tambo Hall where a parliamentary ad hoc committee heard their complaints. There were similar hearings in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga yesterday.

CAPE TIMES

Western Cape's toll tariffs are increasing

The Western Cape's toll tariffs at the Hugenote and Tsitsikamma tolls are set to increase at the beginning of next month. After the hike, the Tsitsikamma toll road will be the most expensive toll in the country. The South African National Roads Agency (Sanral) said that toll tariffs across the country will increase from 1 March.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Gauteng to focus on education, health, jobs

Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane yesterday said that unemployment reached just over 25% at the end of last year. She was speaking at the opening of the Gauteng legislature. Mokonyane echoed President Jacob Zuma's words when she told the legislature 2010 would be a year of action. She said education was the province's top priority, adding poor matric marks were the result of wide-ranging problems within the Education Department. Mokonyane said efforts were being made to improve healthcare in the province by eliminating long queues, procuring more ambulances and extending service hours at clinics and hospitals. She then turned her attention to job creation and said investment in public infrastructure development was one way of creating decent jobs. Over the next few years the Gauteng provincial government will spend R34 billion on infrastructure development.

EWN.CO.ZA; TALK RADION 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 12:00; SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 12:00

ViaMobile Publishing

R22 million spent on an unused stadium

A multi-million-rand revamped stadium in the historic Vaal Triangle township of Sharpsville remains closed four years after the project was completed. According to a report in possession of the SABC, R22 million was spent to upgrade the George Thabe Stadium. Sharpsville residents are demanding an explanation from the local municipality and are set to embark on a month-long protest action accusing the municipality of corruption and poor service delivery. Yesterday residents in the township embarked on a strike demanding the mayor of Sedibeng and the entire mayoral committee to step down, as nothing has been done by the mayor and her party to improve their lives.

SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 10:00

KZN to use vuvuzela as logo during World Cup

KwaZulu-Natal provincial government is promising a spectacular like none other when the world visits its shores for the World Cup. The province will use the vuvuzela as its logo because it believes it's a weapon used by Bafana Bafana. Provincial officials say they will also be using public jazz performances, disk dancing exhibition and poetry to fill the Moses Mabhida Stadium when kick-off time arrives.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

FF-Plus petitions Tshwane mayor to move squatters

Member of the Freedom Front Plus (FF-Plus) petitioned to the Tshwane metro to not relocate about 17 000 squatters from Atteridgeville to a smallholding west of Pretoria yesterday. FF-Plus's Phillip van Staden said the council did not consult with the residents before their pending approval plan to relocate squatters to smallholdings in Andeon. Some 6 633 residents signed the petition fearing a health risk for them and squatters as no water or sanitation was installed there. The residents also felt the value of their property would decrease.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

2010 is Gauteng's year of action - premier

Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane yesterday vowed that 2010 was the year of action for the province. "It is the year for all of us to work together to speed up service delivery. Our people cannot wait any longer," she said in her State of the Province address in Johannesburg. Mokonyane said education was the province's top priority.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

EDUCATION NEWS

Matric supplementaries end 25 March

The Department of Basic Education says marking of the National Grade 12 Supplementary Examinations will start immediately after the last paper on 25 March. Department spokesperson Granville Whittle says learners who pass the supplementary exams will be able to apply for the mid-year intake programme that some of Mzansi's tertiary institutions have to offer. Whittle says the results will be released on 30 April.

YFM NEWS XTRA @ 08:00

Cedara College to offer degrees

Cedara College of Agriculture will be offering degrees for the first time this year in addition to its diploma programmes. The Bachelor of Agriculture (B Agric) is offered in partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Cedara College principal Sivelile Nompzolo said it has taken five years to work out the details to ensure the new degree complies with stringent educational, academic and legal requirements. It has gone through the university academic process and through the National Department of Education. It was finally accredited by the Council on Higher Education in December last year.

WITNESS

Education Department's PC's auctioned

Computers belonging to the KwaZulu Natal Education Department were auctioned on Friday to pay off debt owed to a group of attorneys. The computers contained essential information which was downloaded before it was collected. The department allegedly went to court to have the auction postponed, but was unsuccessful. In the mean time, work has come to a standstill at the Metropolitan Building in Pietermaritzburg, where the computers were taken from.

WITNESS

Lessons halted after standoff at school

Teaching at Topaz Secondary School in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, has ground to a halt following a dispute between the school's principal and staff. On Thursday, parents, teachers and pupils marched to the school and removed the principal, Reshma Moloo, from her office, claiming she referred to them as "lazy baboons and k*****s". Yesterday, the Gauteng Department of Education acknowledged the problems at the school, saying it had held a meeting with the principal and staff while the pupils milled about. The South African Democratic Teacher's Union's (Sadtu's) Ronald Nyathi said its members at the school were "not happy at how the principal handled black educators".

STAR

Durban FET Campus hit by arson attacks

The Elangeni FET College in Durban is on high alert after a spate of arson attacks at three of its campuses. Elangeni college rector Max Mbili said a group of people he identified as disgruntled former employees arrived at his office in Pinetown at 11:00 and spilled garbage yesterday. He said the contracts of about 40 workers were not renewed due to a drop in the number of students enrolled. Two weeks after they were told the group came to the Pinetown campus and caused about R30 000 damage to his car. The Department of Education has expressed concern at the situation at the college.

MERCURY

Protest march at the University of Cape Town

Demanding an end to violence, thousands of University of Cape Town (UCT) students yesterday marched from the university's upper campus to Observatory, the scene of the most recent murder of a student. UCT vice-chancellor Max Price told marching students that the state had failed to protect its citizens. This comes as two students from UCT along with one from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) were killed in recent months.

CAPE TIMES

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Transport 'command centre' to be set up for WC

The Department of Transport (DoT) will set up a transport command and call centre for the 2010 World Cup "to ensure efficient and effective transport". Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele says that the centre is expected to be operational by the end of March. The World Cup kicks off in June. Ndebele says that the command and call centre will serve as a central hub of coordination for transport operations, information management and risk assessment during the global sports event. "The centre will enable the DoT to maintain overall command, control and coordination of transport operations across the country, including host cities and provinces," explains Ndebele. The centre will provide live, real-time traffic and transport information that will also facilitate quick decision-making and responses to incidents. Travellers will also be able to access relevant transport information through the call centre and a central website.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA

Government targets more savings

Government has identified possible savings of R56.2 billion at national and provincial level over the next three years. It would seem that the gravy-train days of public officials are numbered. These are the findings of a task team put together, following the medium-term budget, to find areas where government can save money, especially in light of the almost R70 billion revenue shortfall. At provincial level, R15.4 billion can be saved within the next year. Savings of R8.4 billion have been identified at national level from October, which could bring total savings for the year to R23 billion. Real growth over the next three years will be about 2% a year, said Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in his first budget address.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Plans to lease portions of the Western Cape's assets

Plans to lease portions of the Western Cape government's R85 billion in assets to the private sector to generate income for the province are set to be at an advanced stage. Premier Helen Zille said in her State of the Province address that the provincial government would attract and retain investment by leveraging a portion of the R85 billion in assets it owned to create private partnerships.

CAPE TIMES

Irregularities lead to suspension

A forensic investigation has revealed the details behind the suspension of a deputy director-general at the Department of Communications. It found irregular expenditure of more than R3 million on two contracts relating to one transaction and irregularities on two others. The investigation was conducted by Ntumba Chartered Accountants, which was commissioned by the department on 3 October last year. Although Ntumba made no recommendations, Harry Mathabathe was placed on a precautionary suspension in December. He was the deputy director-general responsible for finance, state-owned enterprises and small, medium and micro enterprises. The hearing would take place next month and Mathabathe has said that he intended defending himself.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Zuma's call for ministers to account welcomed

Political analysts have welcomed President Jacob Zuma pledge that ministers will sign delivery agreements committing them to specific targets and deadlines for their departments. However, Executive Director of the Centre for Politics and Research, Prince Mashele, says it will have to be seen if the President will have the political will to act if the agreements are not honoured.

SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 12:00

DA's Western Cape sets sights high

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille has tied her government to an ambitious set of targets in a bid to make the Democratic Alliance-controlled province a model of good governance in the country. The list of objectives outlined in her State of the Province address in the legislature on Friday ranged from rationalising government, fighting corruption and improving education outputs and health infrastructure to making the Cape Town central business district (CBD) an attractive investment location. Zille undertook to achieve efficiency savings of R2,1bn in the next three years, with millions already saved by departments cutting out luxuries. Public entities such as Wesgro, Cape Nature and Cape Town Routes Unlimited were being evaluated to see if they justified the R1.5 billion earmarked for them over the next five years.

ALLAFRICA.COM - ALL AFRICA MEDIA

Timing of Zuma's call for moral debate questioned

Opposition parties reacted with scorn to President Jacob Zuma's proposed debate on morality. Zuma called for the debate over the weekend. He insists he was always planning to highlight the issue but politicians say the timing as little bit too convenient to be believed. Opposition parties say this is a way for Zuma to feeble attempt to prove his got more support than the media might reflect. It is still not clear what form this proposed moral debate will take or if indeed Zuma himself will be involved.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Bishops applaud Zuma

The South African Catholic Bishop's Conference (SACBC) has welcomed President Jacob Zuma's call for a national dialogue on morality and morals. "President Zuma's proposal is a timely one. It is for all South Africans to participate in a collective responsibility for our future," the SACBC said in a statement.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, allegations of fronting and fraud prompted a raid by the commercial crimes unit of SAPS of medical waste disposal business Compass Waste Services. The business is the focus of an investigation by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and the police after the police seized documents and computers from its head office in Durban on Friday. Sentech's days of charging high tariffs are numbered as the regulator intends to probe the state-owned signal distributor following complaints from broadcasters. The struggling entity is the dominant signal distributor for all broadcasting services. Global brewing giant SABMiller's local unit, the South African Breweries, announced on Monday that the retailer component of its broad-based empowerment transaction, SAB Zenzele, is now open for participation by retailers.

NEWS REVIEWS

Liquidations increase as the recession bites

The New Year didn't bring joy for most companies as the number of liquidations and insolvencies reported by Statistics SA rose 25.4% year-on-year in January. Stan Dewey of Matjila, Hertzberg and Dewey Attorneys said that, "There are a lot of reports about how the recession is moving away, but on a grass roots level, there are cash flow problems confronting many companies. Company A can't pay Company B, and the chain of defaults grows bigger, affecting more and more individuals." Part of the increase was attributed to the 34.7% rise in voluntary liquidations and the 7.5% increase in company liquidations. Jaco Kleynhans, a spokesperson for trade union Solidarity, said the increase in liquidations translated into more job losses, and "government intervention came late and didn't do much to preserve jobs".

TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

PostNet keeps the fires burning for OneLogix

Organic growth in all the niche businesses of OneLogix, particularly its national franchise chain PostNet, partially helped to offset the impact of the recessionary trading environment on the listed logistics group in the six months to November. This enabled OneLogix to declare its first capital distribution, of 3c a share, since transferring its listing to AltX in 2004, amounting to a total payout to shareholders of R6.3 million. Ian Lourens, the Chief Executive of OneLogix, said the ability of the group's businesses to overcome the harsh economic conditions of last year and post healthy performances warranted confidence in future prospects, which prompted to company to declare its "milestone distribution".

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

KwaMhlanga to get first consumer centre

The National Consumer Forum (NCF) will open its first Access to Knowledge (A2K) centre in KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga on Friday. The centre - a hub for skills training, research and consumer advice - will officially be opened by Deputy of Trade and Industry Bongi Ntuli. The A2K facility is supported by Nestle South Africa and Metropolitan Holdings, in the interests of consumer empowerment through learnings, particularly in the economically marginalised areas. It is hoped that this centre will be the first of many that the NCF aims to establish around the country. "The A2K centre in KwaMhlanga promises to be a valuable pilot scheme for us to roll out in other areas," said NCF Chairperson Thami Bolani.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Medical professionals in court challenge

Medical professionals and emergency medical services joined forces in the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria yesterday to challenge the validity of the national health reference price list of last year, claiming that the list does not reflect the actual costs involved in the provision of healthcare services. The list gives benchmark tariffs that determine the average tariff for all medical procedures and services. Three applications were consolidated into a single hearing in the high court. The first application was launched by the Hospital Association of SA and the second by the South African Private Practitioners Forum and 22 other professional bodies, including the Association of Surgeons and the South African Heart Association. The third application was lodged by emergency medical services ER24 and Netcare 911. They want the 2009 price list reviewed and set aside.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Sentech's dominance comes under scrutiny

Sentech's days of charging high tariffs are numbered as the regulator intends to probe the state-owned signal distributor following complaints from broadcasters. The struggling entity is the dominant signal distributor for all broadcasting services. Competitor Orbicom - owned by Naspers - provides signals for its sister company, M-Net. Sentech's dominance in the market means that the bargaining power of independent broadcasters, such as e.tv, in negotiating tariffs are restricted. At the hearings into the digital migration regulations last year, e.tv and the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) Broadcasting Consortium urged the Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) to regulate Setech's tariffs. According to the SABC's latest annual report, signal distribution and linking costs rose to R444.3 million last year from R378 million in the previous period.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, dividend income funds will continue to exploit a complex loophole allowing them to avoid tax on interest invested, because the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has not yet taken any steps to stop the practice. Focusing on business, the market reacted enthusiastically on Monday to rumours that financial services giant Old Mutual is considering selling its US Life operations, with the share gaining 2% in morning trade; Renaissance Capital, the Russian investment bank that nearly collapsed during the financial crisis, is launching an operation in Johannesburg as it looks to leverage a pan-African franchise to build one of the world's leading emerging market banks; and Absa had laid a solid foundation to resume its growth over the next two financial years, said analysts commenting on the bank's recent full-year financial results.

NEWS REVIEWS

Business as usual for unit trusts

Dividend income funds will continue to exploit a complex loophole allowing them to avoid tax on interest invested, because the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has not yet taken any steps to stop the practice. SARS confirmed on Thursday it is looking into possible tax avoidance by dividend income unit trust funds, but could not confirm if or when any funds at fault would be closed down. "There are concerns that interest income is being transferred as dividend income," said SARS spokesperson Adrian Lackay. "SARS is actively engaging with the Financial Services Board (FSB) and the treasury regarding this issue." Dividend income unit trusts invest in a variety of preference shares, usually those of the big four banks, which provide tax-free dividends.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Economic data shows steady improvement

Economic data released yesterday showed that the outlook for the year continues to improve. The Reserve Bank's composite lead indicator, which points to growth about six to 12 months ahead, rose further in December - to 12.09 from 12.0 in November and a trough of 104.5 in March. In line with the index's turnaround in that month, gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.9% in the third quarter - a quarterly change adjusted for inflation and seasonal factors and annualised (multiplied by four). Fourth-quarter data on GDP is due today. Annabel Bishop, the group economist at Investec, said the lead index was back to the level of June 2008, only 6.6 points off the high reached in the last economic upswing 0 127.5 in July.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star) ; BUSINESS DAY (National) ; TIMES Business Times

Interest rates 'too high for too long'

Former Reserve Bank governor Tito Mboweni was heavily criticised by economics professor Brian Kantor yesterday for keeping interest rates too high for too long, strangling the economy. Kantor believes that the new mandate for the bank, agreed to by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and its new governor Gill Marcus, represented an implicit rebuke by the Treasury of previous monetary policy, which was too rigidly focused on keeping inflation within the target of 3% to 6%, regardless of the source of price rises and the effect on the economy. The new mandate, expressed in a letter sent by Gordhan to Marcus last week, gave the Bank more flexibility to consider factors such as growth, employment and the exchange rate when deciding on interest rates.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Economic recovery helps lift Makalani

Mezzanine financing company Makalani Holdings has lifted headline earnings for unitholders 44% to R82.5 million, or headline earnings per linked unit to 386c, in the six months to December. The early start of the easing of difficult market conditions saw an improvement in Fair-value losses in the company's portfolio, due to write downs the previous year. Makalani has proposed a delisting, which, according to CEO Keshan Pillay, might be completed by the end of April, depending on regulatory approvals. FirstRand, which owns about 40% of the company, would underwrite the delisting offer and Competition Board approval had been obtained should FirstRand end up with more than 50% of Makalani, said Pillay.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Investors still cautious about equities - Sanlam

Short-term returns and valuations are among the main concerns shared by stock market investors at this juncture, according to a survey. The February Sanlam Investment Management (SIM) investor confidence index survey also showed the number of investors fearing a market crash had decreased and they were slightly more upbeat about a 12-month outlook for equities than they were a month ago. SIM head of asset allocation and macro research Frederick White said investors had reduced return expectations over all periods up to six months, which revealed concern about the short-term outlook. "The one-month expectation dropped from +1% to -1.2%, the three-month expectation from +2% to +1.7%," he said yesterday.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Property scheme ends in tears

Several leading property developers may be liquidated because they allowed themselves to be dragged into a massive, highly controversial property scheme. For 18 months, developers have been waiting for their money after a Ghanaian businessman offered to buy hundreds of properties for \$6.5 billion (R55 billion). It now appears that the promised funding is unavailable because it still has to be sourced. The worst of it is that the developers have to help carry the costs of sourcing the finance. The property developers have also been unable to proceed with selling stands and units in their developments because they have been waiting for the company. At the time developers thought that the scheme was their salvation amid serious pressure in the industry following the financial crisis.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Redefine acquisitions grow property portfolio

Redefine, the listed property company, has boosted its R18.2 billion property portfolio with the acquisition of four A-grade properties for a total of R520 million. The company said yesterday that it has acquired Cape Town industrial property Linpac Packaging for R100 million and an Edgars retail property in Johannesburg for R105 million, while agreements had been signed to purchase the Deneys Reitz office building in Sandton for R127 million and Cornerstone House, an office complex in Crown Mines, for R182 million. Mike Flax, the Executive Director of Redefine, said the company's acquisition strategy was to focus on A-grade properties with value in excess of R50 million and located in core markets, which would enhance the quality of the portfolio, increase the average property value and diversify the fund's income base across different asset classes and core markets.

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

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

SuperSport United coach Gavin Hunt's request to the Premier Soccer League to keep the Absa Premiership title away from Super Stadium tomorrow night for their clash against BIDVest Wits, is an example of the type philosophy that has been the cornerstone of Hunt's success since joining the team. This businesslike attitude has propelled United to consecutive league titles, with a third guaranteed with a win tomorrow. Hunt has achieved with SuperSport what the three big teams in South African football could not: consistent success. And this with significantly less financial resources than the Soweto giants and Mamelodi Sundowns. He has done this in a workmanlike way, with a team consisting of few stars and no frills. Hunt's teams have always been disciplined and efficient and have got the job done, something they will do once more this season, and will continue to do for years to come.

News Reviews

Matfield cleared of foul play

Bulls lock Victor Matfield was yesterday cleared of foul play during his team's 50-32 victory over the Brumbies last Saturday. Matfield was cited following the match under Law 10.4(a) for allegedly striking Brumbies flank Rocky Elsom around the head area, and appeared before a Sanzar judicial committee chaired by Advocate Jannie Lubbe in Pretoria yesterday. After viewing the available video angles, Lubbe deemed that Matfield had cleared Elsom in a lawful manner and he was found not guilty.

STAR, Sport; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Hunt requests PSL to keep trophy away

SuperSport United coach Gavin Hunt has requested the Premier Soccer League to keep the Absa Premiership trophy away from Super Stadium tomorrow as his team aim to secure the trophy for the third season in succession. SuperSport will establish an unassailable lead at the top of the standings if they beat BIDVest Wits tomorrow. Hunt has reasoned that having the trophy on the sidelines could have a negative effect on the team, as it could distract his players from completing the job at hand.

STAR, Sport

All is not well in the Orlando Pirates camp

All is not well in the Orlando Pirates camp it would seem. There are reports of tension between star midfielder Teko Modise and coach Ruud Krol, allegations that have been denied by Modise's manager Jazzman Mahlakgane. The drama started when Modise was substituted at halftime during the 2-1 loss to Maritzburg United. The Pirates midfielder was apparently taken off due to ankle injury, but in the aftermath of the Soweto derby, indications point to a break down in the player coach relationship. Coach aired his sentiments on the player after the derby match telling the media that Modise did not show up for training and that indicates to him that "he is not interested to play".

According to Talk Radio 702, Teko Modise is expected to report back to training today.

ENews PRIME @ 19:00

Parnell's performance a positive, says Kallis

South African captain Jacques Kallis believes the performance of Wayne Parnell with the bat, under pressure, was one of the positives the Proteas could take from Sunday's narrow one-run defeat to India in the first one-day international in Jaipur. Batting at No 9, Parnell scored 49 and was run out off the final ball with South Africa needing three runs to win. Walking in to bat with the Proteas' run chase in trouble at 180/7, Parnell put on a stand of 65 with Dale Steyn, which gave the Proteas a fighting chance of registering an improbable victory. "He's a talented cricketer and he's going to take a lot away from this game," Kallis said. "He's got all the attributes of becoming a good all-rounder." "He's certainly got a bright future ahead of him."

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.7048	(-0.0035)
Rand - Sterling £	11.9432	(-0.0901)
Rand - Euro €	10.4754	(-0.0856)
JSE Allshare	27284.2	(+215.03)
Gold	1115.3	(+2.50)
Platinum	1535.0	(+22.00)
Brent Crude Oil	78.1	(-0.06)

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

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	18	(25)
Cape Town	22	(31)
Durban	23	(30)
East London	20	(25)
Johannesburg	15	(27)
Kimberley	18	(29)
Mafikeng	17	(27)
Nelspruit	20	(28)
Pietermaritzburg	19	(28)
Polokwane	15	(27)
Port Elizabeth	19	(24)
Pretoria	19	(28)