

THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, SA's economy grew much faster than expected in the final quarter of last year, boosted mainly by a hefty rebound in factory output, which dampened speculation interest that rates would be cut again next month; FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke says SA is not yet ready to host the World Cup; President Jacob Zuma hung ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe out to dry yesterday and rejected Cosatu critics who called last week's Budget pro-business; and Julius Malema's "intelligence document" was compiled by a former SARS employee, who is facing criminal charges but insists he was part of a sting operation.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke says South Africa isn't ready yet to host the World Cup, and he still doesn't know where all the teams will be based during the tournament. "We have 106 days - it seems short, it is short, but even if we have to stay awake all night, every night, we will be ready." The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) is in the firing line for once again involving itself in the ruling party's factional battles. The Justice Project SA (JPSA) has launched its Class Action initiative in an effort to combine all civil lawsuits pertaining to unjust traffic enforcement.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

SA not ready

FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke says South Africa isn't ready yet to host the World Cup, and he still doesn't know where all the teams will be based during the tournament. With barely three months until the event starts, organisers still face problems with Soccer City - the incomplete Johannesburg venue for the opening match and final - filling stadiums and handling the intense scrutiny of England's proposed training camp. "If the question is 'could we host the World Cup tomorrow morning?' the answer is no," Valcke said yesterday at Sun City. "We have 106 days - it seems short, it is short, but even if we have to stay awake all night, every night, we will be ready."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

NIA reporting to Malema

The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) is in the firing line for once again involving itself in the ruling party's factional battles. This time around, the NIA allegedly provided the African National Congress Youth League President Julius Malema with a list of people who are apparently seeking the destruction of President Jacob Zuma supporters. The NIA played a critical role in getting Jacob Zuma off the hook on corruption charges just before the provincial and national elections in April last year. Malema revealed in SAfm yesterday that he had handed the list - compiled by intelligence officers - to the police for investigation. Democratic Alliance Youth Spokesperson Khume Ramulifho slammed the NIA for "reporting" to the league, instead of to the state.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR

Fight traffic laws abuse

Joe Public now has a cheap, easy way to strike back at traffic authorities and municipalities over illegal fines, unlawful detention, refusal to issue license discs and the unjustified imposition of criminal records. The Justice Project SA (JPSA) has launched its Class Action initiative in an effort to combine all civil lawsuits pertaining to unjust traffic enforcement. Anyone with an ID number can register, and those with a gripe can now go to court without it costing them an arm and a leg. The JPSA has sent a letter of demand to the relevant authorities in Johannesburg, which demands the cancellation of a slew of illegal fines along the N1 north and southbound.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

POLITICAL NEWS

Malema hands target list to cops

African National Congress Youth League President Julius Malema has asked the police to investigate a list of people believed to be targeting supporters of President Jacob Zuma, he told SAfm on Tuesday in the wake of a debate over his personal assets. He said he did not mind being audited by the SA Revenue Services, but not if it was driven by a political agenda. He said once the revenue services were used to further the political interests of ANC breakaway group Congress of the People, the Independent Democrats, the Democratic Alliance, or factional interests within the ANC, then there was a problem. "I'm saying so because we have got a document of a list of people and I will make it public. We just took it to the police for them to verify it. A list of people who must be targeted ... and these people are called Zuma people," he said in reference to President Jacob Zuma.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; STAR

We support Malema - Cosas

The Congress of SA Students (Cosas) in Gauteng supports African National Congress Youth League leader Julius Malema, Provincial Secretary Oagile Louw said on Tuesday. "Comrade Malema, like any other South African, has the right to contest for tenders. We pronounce without any fear of contradiction or intimidation that we remain behind comrade Julius," Louw said. Cosas was reacting to reports of Malema's plush lifestyle allegedly being bankrolled by government tenders. He said if people wanted Malema probed, then they should start by re-opening the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process because there were still unresolved cases there.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Cipro not informed of Malema resignations

The Companies and Intellectual Properties Registration Office (Cipro) had not received notifications of the resignation of Julius Malema from four of five companies he was associated with, it said yesterday. "According to Cipro's records, Mr Malema is still listed as a director on four entities as listed above," its Communications Director, Dr Elsabe Conradie, said in response to questions on the African National Congress Youth League president's directorships.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition)

Opposition parties slammed Zille on her address

Opposition parties have slammed Western Cape Premier Helen Zille for her anti-poor State of the Province Address. African National Congress (ANC) opposition leader in the provincial legislature Lynne Brown said that the address did not prioritise levelling the playing field and did not contain information about delivery of services and facilities for the poor. She said that Zille missed an opportunity to address poverty. The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) MPL Pauline Cupido and Congress of the People's (COPE's) MPL Tozama Bevu said that the cycle of poverty was a hindrance to equal opportunity.

CAPE TIMES

Coloured DA members accused leaders of undermining

Coloured members of the Democratic Alliance (DA) have accused the party's leaders of undermining black and coloured members and raised concerns about the role of black delegates at the party's forthcoming Western Cape conference. Two DA councillors in the metro, Frank Martin and Grant Twigg, have voiced their unhappiness about what they call the party's soft handling of white transgressors compared to black ones. They have cited alleged leniency by Western Cape Premier and party leader Helen Zille in disciplining Western Cape party head Theuns Botha, who is Community Safety MEC Lennit Max's main rival in the leadership race. Zille said it was inevitable that, before an internal election of this nature, people mobilise in this way.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Support for 'Vuvuzela' Malema

Provincial offices of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) came out in support of their leader on Tuesday - and blamed "forces of darkness" for the controversy surrounding Julius Malema's personal assets and company directorships. The Northern Cape's provincial executive committee said it would back him for a second term as league president. "We believe that his charisma and oratory skills complemented by his excellent work ethic would once again put him in pole position to come out on top for a second term as the president of the ANC Youth League," said one of three statements sent within minutes of each other after Malema had participated in two radio interviews on Tuesday morning. The Northern Cape ANCYL said it had already begun "to mobilise our human arsenal and artillery to canvas for the candidature of Comrade Julius Malema."

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

McBride's presence questioned

Is Robert McBride set to be the new director-general of the Northern Cape? This was the question asked yesterday by Neville Mompoti, provincial leader of COPE in the Northern Cape, at the State of the Province debate in Upington. "We note with concern the presence of Robert McBride at last week's State of the Province address. In the wake of rumours that he is earmarked by the ruling party to take over as director-general in your office, Honourable Premier (Hazel Jenkins), his attendance on the day seemed rather conspicuous," Mompoti said. "The Congress of the People cautions you not to consider this appointment."

STAR

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Cele: SA trying to minimise World Cup threats

South Africa is working with international agencies like Interpol and the FBI to minimise the threat of terror attacks during the World Cup, the country's top policeman said on Monday. "Nothing informs us that we would be a terrorism risk but in the same vein it would be foolish to say we can't look at that, that we can't work hard so it doesn't happen," Police Commissioner Bheki Cele told Reuters in an interview. "The intelligence world is meeting with other big intelligence agencies, we get advice and we meet with them, especially the Americans. We are working very closely with the FBI." Cele said it was unfair to label SA as the world's most violent country and said that Brazil, hosts of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, had more crime problems. Critics say that high crime levels will be one of the biggest deterrents for foreign fans at the World Cup in June.

IOL.CO.ZA

Bheki Cele ensuring safety for the Soccer World Cup

South Africa's top cop said World Cup fans will be safe, and the country will be safer because of the work his force has done to prepare for the event which begins in June. National Commissioner Bheki Cele said the World Cup's legacy for police has meant new equipment for his force and training for his officers with experts from Britain, France, Germany, the US and elsewhere. Cele said preparations have included recruiting 55 000 new police officers, new equipment worth R665 million, 10 mobile command vehicles, body armour and water cannons. About 200 Interpol officers will be in the country during the month-long tournament, along with up to eight officers from each of the 31 countries sending teams.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Security for King Shaka Airport

The new King Shaka International Airport in La Mercy is expected to receive top security during the 2010 World Cup. This was announced by Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa during a tour of the airport yesterday. He said about 500 police officers will be stationed at the airport, these include tactical response teams, officer's trained in crowd control and crime intelligence.

MERCURY

Huge police arsenal missing

More than 60 firearms and approximately 50 000 rounds of ammunition have presumably been stolen from a specialised police unit in Mpumalanga. The weapons were part of the arsenal of the police's former riot unit which had been stationed in Hazyview. The unit was closed in 2007 after a decision by Jackie Selebi, former police commissioner, to close all specialist units. The theft of (some of) the weapons was only recently discovered by police inspectors. An audit of the unit's assets was ordered by the Mpumalanga provincial police headquarters, after two police firearms were found in the possession of suspects who were involved in planting a bomb at an ATM.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Prisoners still on the loose

The search for three prisoner's who escaped from the Westville Prison in Durban is still continuing. The men escaped from the seventh floor of the prison's medium A section by breaking through a steel door and window bars to gain access to a balcony. A ninth prisoner who is on trial for the murder of 13 women fell and broke his leg whilst trying to escape. He was re-arrested and taken to hospital. Security has since been tightened at the prison.

MERCURY

Mapisa-Nqakula concerned about prison escapes

Correctional Services Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula says she is concerned about repeated collusion between department officials and prisoners. Her comments come after eight dangerous awaiting-trial prisoners escaped from the Durban Westville Correctional Centre during a prayer service on Sunday. Mapisa-Nqakula says a preliminary investigation into the escape show clear signs that the prisoners had colluded with officials at the facility. She says she has consulted police and State Security ministries to put together a high level investigation team. KwaZulu-Natal police say the escapees are serving sentences for murder and rape. Sugarcane serial killer suspect Thozamile Taki was among the eight, but he injured himself and ended up in hospital under police guard.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

SA intercepts arms shipment

South Africa has told a UN Security Council committee it intercepted a North Korean weapons shipment bound for Central Africa, which diplomats said was a violation of a UN ban on arms sales by Pyongyang. The seizure took place in November, when South African authorities received information that a ship headed for the Republic of the Congo was carrying containers with suspicious cargo, according to a letter sent by South Africa to the Security Council's North Korea sanctions committee. Several Western diplomats described the incident as a "clear-cut violation" of Security Council resolution 1874, which bans all North Korean arms exports and most weapons-related imports in response to its nuclear programme.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 11:00

Zuma unable to grant pardons

Former president Thabo Mbeki has effectively prevented President Jacob Zuma from unilaterally pardoning a number of racist, religious and political killers. At least not without consulting their victims. This was the unanimous decision of the Constitutional Court, which was faced with the president, ministers and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) on one side and the victims and NGOs on the other.

STAR; BUSINESS DAY (National); CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Corrupt traffic cops arrested

Six traffic officials have been arrested for corruption in two separate incidents in the North West, the provincial police said on Monday. Superintendent Lesego Metsi said four officers were arrested on Monday in Zeerust by the Provincial Organised Crime Investigative Unit following complaints from motorists. The officers allegedly stopped Botswana motorists outside Zeerust, along the Nietverdiend/Gaborone road and demanded bribes of about R200. People who did not have the cash were given heavy spot fines.

WHEELS24.CO.ZA - WHEELS 24

Deputy Minister works to curb trafficking

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba on Monday urged Southern African Development Community countries to step in and help eradicate cross border human trafficking. There were fears more women and children would be brought into the country and forced into prostitution for the sporting event in June. Gigaba said unfortunately it was often difficult to identify victims of human trafficking. "SADC and other African countries all must be urged to provide their nationals with identity and travel documents to make it easier and safer for them to be identifiable at home as well as to travel abroad," said Gigaba.

EWN.CO.ZA

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

2010 alcohol abuse warning

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has warned that South Africans are likely to be drunk and disorderly during the World Cup, and it has set up systems to mediate. The CCMA has set up special units in all major 2010 host cities to arbitrate with workplace disputes resulting from global soccer's showpiece event. Labour experts are also warning that employees will be juggling with 64 soccer matches, their children who will be on school holidays, and the stresses of their jobs.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

Solidarity gearing itself for increases

The 2010 wage season is upon us and the trade union Solidarity is geared to tackle the tough wage negotiations this year. Solidarity maintains that this year, the trade union will fight for increases above inflation and the union not only wants to ensure that employees keep up with the rising cost of living, but also wants to ensure that salaries are improved. It is estimated that this year inflation will reach an average of 6%. This comes after the average inflation of 7.1% recorded in 2009. "Last year, Solidarity concluded average wage increase agreements of 9.3%. This amounts to increases, on average, of 2.2% above last year's average inflation. Solidarity maintains that increases above inflation can also be expected for this year's wage season," explained Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans.

NEWS REVIEWS

NEWS BRIEF

Motsepe for nationalisation

African Rainbow Minerals Executive Chairperson Patrice Motsepe on Monday said he would support the nationalisation of South African mines if it were in the best interests of the country. Speaking during a presentation of ARM's interim results, Motsepe said he had faith in the country's people to make the right decision. "I have no doubt that whatever South Africa decides is in the best interest of the country I will support," said Motsepe. Motsepe said it was important in any democracy that there be debate about any subject. He said there should be no holy cows since keeping certain subjects from debate could lead to secrecy and lack of transparency.

IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS

2010 World Cup visas from March

The South African Consulate General says that all arrangements are in place to host the upcoming 2010 World Cup and that it will start issuing special visas come March, notes a TNT report. "Requests for visas, accompanied by the World Cup tickets, will be considered within five working days from the date of application," SA Consul General Mahdi Basadien told a meeting of travel agents and media at the Westin Jeddah.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

SA motorist set to get some relief at fuel pumps

Analysts say there is good news for South African motorists; they are set to get some relief at the fuel pumps next week. They say while lower oil prices during the accounting period offered some relief, the volatile rand weighed on posted gains. From midnight on Tuesday next week the prices for petrol and diesel are expected to remain unchanged. Analysts have further forecast that fuel prices will rise steeply in April with taxes amounting to 25c a litre announced in the budget.

SAFM NEWS @ 11:00

ID book designer 'stupid'

The designer of the South African identity book was "stupid", Deputy Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba has said. The Times newspaper reported on Tuesday that Gigaba said the green bar-coded ID book was a mess. "I think whoever designed it should win a Nobel stupidity prize. It is the most stupid document you can imagine," he said at a Johannesburg workshop on Monday on human trafficking ahead of the World Cup. Gigaba said the identity books were easily forged, creating problems for his department. "Even the process to apply for it has so many loopholes. That's why we cannot make progress [with the smart identity card]. We are stuck with a process that needs a complete overhaul."

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; IAFRICA.COM; EWN.CO.ZA

ASA sold a car for R1

The man appointed to sort out Athletics South Africa (ASA) affairs has revealed that former athletics boss Leonard Chuene bought a car from the athletic organisation for just R1 in 2004. Ray Mali says he made the startling discovery while going through minutes of ASA board meetings. He also discovered that three cars were also sold to other ASA official for just R1. ASA's previous board was removed from office for alleged financial mismanagement and their handling of the Caster Semenya saga. Mali says he also established that ASA is still paying for the licensing of the car in Chuene's possession and is now investigating whether the car was sold to him irregularly.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; ASA NEWS @ 06:00

FXI wants SALRC to look into section 205

The Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) has asked the SA Law Reform Commission (SALRC) to investigate amending section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) to introduce a "shield law" to protect confidential journalistic sources and information. The recent debate over issuing subpoenas calling for two e.tv journalists to divulge their sources and confidential information highlighted the controversial point at which conflicting rights collide and the manner in which section 205 is abused, the FXI said in a statement yesterday.

SAFM NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

Real Barbie story 'yet to come out'

"Anything can happen. The real story will come out sooner or later... this is not the end of the road." These are the ominous words of Professor Johan Lemmer, the stepfather of Cezanne Visser, better known as "Advocate Barbie", ahead of her sentencing today. Visser, convicted on 11 charges relating to sexual abuse of young girls and women, will be sentenced in the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, bringing to an end one of the most scandalous criminal trials in recent history.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Pothole repairs get under way

The Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality (EMM) has appointed two contractors to deal with the serious pothole problem in their region. "The EMM is aware of the badly-deteriorated condition of our roads and the reasons for this include the state of the roads and the recent heavy rains and excessive traffic," said Metro spokesperson Zweli Dlamini. He said they have set aside R50 million to respond to the state of the roads.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Lights out for climate change

Global landmarks will be plunged into darkness to create awareness and resolve the issue of climate change. In the total 75 landmarks including Table Mountain, Mount Rushmore the Las Vegas strip and the London Eye will lead a global display of climate action in the annual Earth Hour, a climate change initiative of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on 27 March at 20:30.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

HEALTH NEWS

More condoms for 2010 World Cup

Condom supplies will be beefed up at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, which has more HIV cases than any other country, a top medical officer said on Monday. "There's going to be a large number of people who will be descending onto the country. There's going to be a spirit of festivity and... there could be a more than usual demand for measures such as condoms," said Victor Ramathesele, General Medical Officer for SA's Local Organising Committee (LOC). "So there are measures in place to ensure that the condom supply is going to be ramped up during this tournament," he told reporters. SA has the world's largest HIV case-load, with 5.7-million people carrying the virus, according to the United Nations Aids agency.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), PROJECT2010.CO.ZA; IAFRICA.COM

Improving health through recreational football

For over 15 years, effective prevention of injuries in professional football has been the top priority of FIFA's Medical Committee and Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC). Now, having ensured the health and safety of football, they are moving beyond the professional game. "The 11 for Health" project will explore football's unique potential to improve the health not only of individuals but of communities worldwide. "The project will enable us to deliver health education through football," explained Dr Michel D'Hooghe, Chairperson of FIFA's Medical Committee, at the end of the third International Football Medicine Conference in Sun City. Lack of fitness is the number one cause of death in our society. A healthy and effective way of preventing this is by playing football.

NEWS REVIEWS

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Entrepreneurs in Limpopo question tender process

A group of some 100 people in Polokwane have accused the office of the Limpopo Premier of falling to properly issue tenders. They say the procurement system by the local government is flawed and only awards tenders to those who hold higher political offices. The unofficial group of entrepreneurs gathered in Polokwane to voice their concerns following media reports that African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President, Julius Malema, was awarded tenders in that province.

SFM NEWS @ 07:00

PE faces water 'crisis' ahead of WC

The shortage of clean drinking water in Nelson Mandela Bay is threatening to adversely affect the 2010 World Cup in the region. Sunday World reports that the Nelson Mandela metropolitan municipality has admitted it could run out of water before the 2010 World Cup, saying it is preparing a "crisis plan" to address the problem. The plan is to be finalised in March, when details will be revealed. This admission comes as the critical water shortage worsens by the day, with the Municipality being blamed for failing to implement restrictions agreed on seven months ago.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

The longest social grant wait has been 13 hours

The average queuing for applicants for social grants in the Cape Town Metro is three hours. This is according to the Black Sash. The organisation said that the longest waiting time it had recorded was 13 hours and it was elderly man at the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa). This comes as a study found that a fifth of Sassa's service points in the metro do not open on time. The Black Sash urged Sassa to investigate the cause of the unacceptably long periods people spent in queues.

CAPE TIMES

Msunduzi mayor receives posh office furniture

New leather furniture has been delivered to the office of the Mayor in the Msunduzi Municipality. This comes despite the municipality being in the midst of a major financial crisis. Spokesperson for the municipality, Ntobeko Ngcobo said that the furniture was ordered last year to accommodate the large number of community members that visit the mayor on a daily basis. City Hall employees have dismissed the claims saying the only people that frequent the waiting area are bodyguards. IFP councillor Dolo Zondi said that despite the order for the couches being placed last year it could have been cancelled in the wake of the municipality's dire financial situation.

WITNESS

KZN Premier to deliver address today

KwaZulu Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize will deliver his second State of the Province address in the city's Royal Showgrounds today. Opposition party, the Democratic Alliance want Mkhize to address education, health, infrastructure, corruption, tender abuse, overspending and sustainable job creation.

WITNESS

Frustrated traders March to the City's offices

More than 200 frustrated and angry traders marched to the offices of the City of Cape Town demanding that land be made available for trade within the CBD. Traders have been temporarily evicted to make way for renovations on the Cape Town station deck. In a memorandum handed over to Paul Williamson, the city's services co-ordinator of Business Area Management, it said that traders are being victimised by the City and Intersite.

CAPE TIMES

Cape Town's Traffic Services not staying open late

Cape Town's Traffic Services is so confident of its new measure to slash waiting periods for learner's and driver's license tests that it will not for the time being, open testing stations over weekend as the National Transport Minister announced. Cape Town Traffic spokesperson Kevin Jacobs said that because the city had been able to reduce waiting periods, the additional hours will be implemented in future and only if it became necessary.

CAPE TIMES

Zulu king wants to be marketed for 2010

King Goodwill Zwelithini wants to be used as a marketing initiative in Durban for the 2010 World Cup. He has called for his palaces to be revamped and for his portraits to be mounted at key public venues, such as airports and football stadiums. He said the display will complement the Kingdom of the Zulu brand that people see as they arrive in Durban. He has also called on Premier Zweli Mkhize to elevate his palaces to a level that befitted the royal household. The issue is expected to be discussed at a cabinet meeting.

MERCURY

Orange Farm protests continue

Protests against poor service delivery continued along the Golden Highway on Tuesday with police closing the road and then re-opening it shortly after 10:00, Johannesburg Metro Police said. Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar said the Golden Highway had again been closed after protesters burned tyres and blocked the road with rocks. While the road was later re-opened, he advised motorists to use the N1 as an alternative route. Police were keeping a close eye on the situation where angry residents pelted police with stones and burnt tyres on Monday. Protesting Orange Farm residents began demonstrating at around 01:00 on Monday and at around 15:00 the 1 500 residents started pelting police with stones and damaging their vans in the process. Police retaliated by firing teargas and rubber bullets and arrested 30 people for public violence.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Orange Farm now calm

Johannesburg's Deputy Mayor, Ruby Mathang, was sent in yesterday to restore calm to Orange Farm. Residents had gone on a rampage for two consecutive days, blockading the Golden Highway nearby vowing to resort to violence again if the council does not deliver on the mayor's promise of better service delivery in the area. Mathang met with community leaders at a nearby police station. His message went well with the community and violence has since stopped. The construction promised by the deputy mayor is due to start today and resident warned that if it is delayed they won't hesitate to take to the streets again.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

More millions to be spent on upgrading George Thabe

Millions of rands more will be spent to further upgrade the George Thabe Stadium in Sharpville after it has already undergone a R22 million facelift. Despite the revamp four years ago, there is still very little to show for the money. The stadium is one of the issues being raised by protesting Sharpville residents who have accused the mayor of Emfuleni and Sedibeng municipalities of corruption. The mayor of Sedibeng Mahole Simon Mofokeng agrees that the work done is not worthy of R22 million. He says he wasn't mayor at the time the stadium was first revamped but he will be demanding answers from the provincial government. Mofokeng says even the toilets at the stadium will now have to be demolished, meaning more tax payers millions will be spent to build them in preparation for the Soccer World Cup.

SAFM NEWS @ 10:00

Protests in Sharpville intensifies

In Sharpville the service delivery protest has intensified. Residents from surround Vaal districts have joined in on the second day of protests. They are determined to ensure that human rights celebrations are not held in the area on 21 March this year. The March event will be hosted to commemorate the day 69 people were brutally murdered by the apartheid police 40 years ago. The Sharpville residents say due to continued corruption by their mayoral council, they will ensure that the area is ungovernable. Meanwhile the Pan African Congress (PAC) says that it fully supports the protest action accusing the area's municipality of what it calls rampant corruption.

SAFM NEWS @ 12:00; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

Samwu march in Ekurhuleni

The South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) marched to the Ekurhuleni municipality yesterday morning to hand over a memorandum of grievances. The union said it was unhappy with the outsourcing of services by the municipality. It also asked for heads to roll because of management's perceived inability to deal with the union's grievances. Samwu's Koena Ramotlou said: "We will be asking for suspensions of senior employees and also the resignation of all members of the mayoral committee in the process," said Ramotlou.

EWN.CO.ZA; SAFM NEWS @ 11:00

EDUCATION NEWS

Search still on for UKZN professor

The search for Professor Steve de Gruchy of the University of KwaZulu Natal in Pietermaritzburg is still continuing. He was last seen on Sunday morning whilst tubing with his son on the Mooi River. The search is expected to continue today.

WITNESS

School principal accused of targeting black children

Black parents have accused a Table View principal of targeting their children after he called all the black pupils into the school hall and blamed them for inappropriate behaviour on the school grounds. The Western Cape Education Department has confirmed the principal's comments. The department says that he realised his mistake and apologised to learners and the parents concerned. Table View High School principal Randall Southgate said that he made an error in judgement. Western Cape Education Department spokesperson Paddy Atwell says the department does view the incident in a very serious light.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

UWC celebrates 50 years

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations has honoured the late Frank Quint who became the first recipient of a doctorate from UWC when he earned this PHD in education in 1968. UWC vice chancellor and rector Professor Brian O'Connell said that the event would enable the university to reflect on its history and celebrate the lives of some of the convocation members.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

KZN Education to dispute attached computers

The KZN Education Department is questioning whether proper procedures were followed in the attachment and removal of computers from its offices in the Metropolitan building in Pietermaritzburg. Sources have claimed that the sheriff took computers and desks after lawyers were awarded a judgement against the department for its failure to pay R50 000 debt. Department spokesperson, Mbali Thusi has disputed this saying that the department is expected to institute legal action on the grounds that improper procedures were followed.

WITNESS

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Business interests fine - JZ

President Jacob Zuma yesterday said that there was nothing to prevent African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President Julius Malema from having undeclared business interests, because he was not an elected public official. "Malema is not a government employee, he's not a director of anything. He is Malema, he's a politician, he is the leader of the ANCyl, not an official in government. I do not know Malema's business. It is not my business to look up every individual (and see) what business does he do."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Zuma defends budget

Defying union criticism, President Jacob Zuma yesterday defended Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan's 2010/2011 budget as being "unapologetically pro-poor" and balanced. He also stuck to his position that nationalisation of mines was not being considered in any way by his government or the governing body. Zuma's remarks appear to slap down ongoing arguments in favour of nationalisation from the African National Congress Youth League and comments from the ANC's alliance partners in the trade union movement, which said that Gordhan's budget, tabled last week, was unacceptable and a "declaration of war" against the poor.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Zuma rejects Cosatu's call for lifestyle audit

President Jacob Zuma says there is no need for so-called lifestyle audits of senior party members and senior political officials. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has called for lifestyle audits, suggesting some politicians are living beyond their means, and they want to know how. But Zuma says present measures to combat corruption are good enough. Zuma says government has appointed an inter-ministerial committee to fight corruption and there is no reason to doubt the efficiency of the structures that are already in place. He added that there is no need to add politicians who do not hold public office and that includes African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) president Julius Malema. Zuma says there is nothing preventing Malema from having business interest because he isn't an elected public official.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition); STAR; BUSINESS DAY (National); THE TIMES

Don't use your culture to judge others - Zuma

Using one's own culture to judge others is unconstitutional President Jacob Zuma said yesterday. Opening the National House of Traditional Leaders, Zuma used the opportunity to call for a debate on the "issue of a national moral code". "I've said I'm going to initiate a national conversation on the moral code, on our values as a country," he said. "We say we are united in diversity. What do we mean when we say this?" The goal was to arrive at what would be the standard, so that "no clever person gives himself or herself the right and authority to judge others or impose his or her own religion or traditional beliefs. Each one of us must be respected. That's what our constitution says."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Minister defends welfare system

Social Development Minister Edna Molewa defended government's welfare system on Tuesday amid reports that South Africa had become the "biggest welfare state" in the world. "It is difficult for the government to close its eyes and look at people when they are suffering and do not have anything to eat," Molewa said at a social development cluster briefing in Cape Town. "The [government] grant system was not intended to be permanent, particularly in the area of young mothers. "Through the programmes we have, we are moving towards empowering people who are on the grant system, particularly young mothers."

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Government plans to boost new sectors

The government's new Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2) can create opportunities for investment in new industries, says Shakeel Meer, divisional executive for industrial sectors at the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). Meer says industries targeted by the IPAP2 include new concerns like green technology, as well as more established industries such as metal manufacturing. IPAP2 will benefit more established industries, as well, Meer believes. Feedback on the IPAP2 has generally been positive. Players are particularly satisfied with the clear targets, role-division and the plan's objectives. Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) industrial policy co-ordinator Jonas Mosia reckons that the industries targeted have good potential for job creation.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Motorists set to pay more for accident fund

Motorists may have to pay higher vehicle registration fees and increased traffic fines, and a surcharge may also be imposed on sales of alcohol under Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele's far-reaching proposal to bring the Road Accident Fund back to financial health. The fund is R31 billion in the red. Ndebele's new draft policy for the fund was published in the Government Gazette last week. In it he says financing the fund through a fuel levy alone does not meet the requirements of the new Road Accident Benefit Scheme he wants introduced.

PRETORIA NEWS

Command centre will co-ordinate cities' WC traffic

The Department of Transport is to launch a "command centre" that will co-ordinate the transport plans for the nine host cities of the Soccer World Cup. The command and call centre would serve as a central hub of co-ordination for transport operations, information management and risk assessment throughout South Africa during the World Cup. George Mahlalela, the acting Director-General of the department, said yesterday these cities had to create a plan that showed how many fans were going to stadiums, where they would be coming from, and how they would be transported. Mahlalela said the host cities had submitted their transport plans to the national department, and the department was "satisfied" with them.

BUSINESS DAY (National); PRETORIA NEWS

Hogan: Eskom cannot operate as monopoly

Public Enterprises Minister Barbara Hogan said yesterday that South Africa could no longer afford a power utility that operated as a monopoly. Eskom's funding requirements for a R486 billion electricity build programme dictated the need for private sector investment, she said at the African Utility Week in Durban. "We're not selling off, but getting equity partners in," Hogan said. "At the same time, we need independent power producers (IPPs)." The government has long-term plans to secure 30% of SA's power through IPPs, while Eskom told the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) last year that it intended to sell a stake in the Kusile power station to raise funds. Hogan argued that both the private sector and the government needed to share the risks inherent in introducing private players into SA's electricity generation sector.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Govt 'not in favour' of rapid power hikes

The government was not in favour of rapidly electricity tariff increases, Energy Minister Dipuo Peters said yesterday, referring to the National Energy Regulator of SA's (Nersa's) much-anticipated decision on Eskom's proposed tariff increase. "It is important that we understand that government is not in favour of rapid increase, but we must understand that utilities need support and costs do happen," Peters said. She said that he department would prepare to speak to South Africans on how they would deal with issues arising out of the tariff decision after the announcement today. "A government such as ours places a high premium on our role from that regulator. We are also awaiting, with bated breath, the decision of the regulator," said Peters.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Plan to consolidate mines under one roof

The Department of Mineral Resources had completed an audit of the State's mining assets and was preparing a position to the Cabinet to consolidate the assets under one company, the Presidency said yesterday. Such a vehicle or company could maximise the impact or benefit for South Africa in line with the developmental agenda of the State, a Presidency statement said. President Jacob Zuma said last week that nationalisation of SA's mines and other sectors was not government policy.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BUSINESS BRIEF

Transnet loses R18m due to tender irregularity

Transnet said yesterday that it had lost R18 million as a result of an alleged tender irregularity. The loss was the result of a locomotive contract worth R867 million that was concluded by suspended Transnet Freight Rail CE Siyabonga Gama. The parastatal said that there were certain outstanding matters that could see the loss widen. "The board is confident that appropriate corrective action has been taken," it added.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star), CITIZEN, Citi Business

In Business new today, Shoprite increased trading profit by 17.5% to R1.6 billion in its first half but the group does not foresee any meaningful recovery for food retailing this year. Turnover growth slowed in line with lower internal food inflation, which during the first half to December averaged 4.2%, compared with 16.9% previously. Job cuts are looming at the SABC as the new board and CEO Solly Mokoetle strive to slash costs and reduce the head count of nearly 4 000 employees. It will take the rest of this year to stabilise the cash- and capacity-stricken SABC, members of Parliament's Communications Portfolio Committee heard yesterday. Chairperson Ben Ngubane has warned that "massive challenges" lay ahead. A keen focus on margin preservation enabled GijimaAst to achieve strong earnings growth in the six months to December, even as market distress brought a 3.6% fall in turnover.

NEWS REVIEWS

Poultry industry undergoes price probe

The poultry industry is being investigated by the Competition Commission, which is alleging market abuse by the South African Poultry Association and some individual producers. Of all the animal protein in South Africa, 60% is chicken. Nandi Mokoena, Commission Manager, said she could confirm that two investigations were under way in which the poultry association and all its past and present members were respondents. "We are investigating the possibility of a price fixing, market allocation and exclusive supply agreements among the members of the association," she said. The collection of data started last April.

PRETORIA NEWS

Manufacturing rally leads the way

News that the manufacturing sector, which employs about 1.7-million people, made a dramatic recovery in the fourth quarter of last year confirmed the domestic economy is out of recession. The bad news is it made further rate cuts unlikely. Statistics SA said yesterday that manufacturing output rose 10% - a quarterly change, adjusted for inflation and seasonal factors and annualised (multiplied by four). The sector's growth boosted overall fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP), which grew 3.2% after growth of 0.9% in the third quarter. The favourable GDP numbers do away with the need for further interest rate cuts, according to Mike Schussler, a Director of Economists.co.za. "The bounce back was a lot bigger than the 2% that I expected," he said.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); CITIZEN, Citi Business; TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times

SABC to cut jobs

Job cuts are looming at the SABC as the new board and CEO Solly Mokoetle strive to slash costs and reduce the bloated head count of nearly 4 000 employees. And the public broadcaster is appealing to the Department of Communications and Parliament's Communications Committee to help it get the auditor-general to undertake a comprehensive forensic audit to help clean up the rot in the organisation because it cannot afford to pay for such an audit itself. SABC Deputy Chairperson Felleng Sekha told the committee yesterday that a forensic audit was necessary to determine the extend of the ""malfeasance" within the organisation.

BUSINESS DAY (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition); PRETORIA NEWS

Survey to pick top business brains

Business Leadership SA is to ask South Africa's most successful entrepreneurs what it would take for them to double the size of the businesses in the next 10 years - as part of an initiative launched yesterday to discuss ways to double or triple the size of the economy within a generation. Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan picked up in the last week's budget speech on a comment by the big business group's CEO, Michael Spicer, that society had to agree on a shared vision to priorities growth as a national goal and double the size of the economy. The group's Chairperson, Bobby Godsell, said this meant raising SA's per-capita gross domestic product from its present \$9 765 a head to about \$20 000 to \$30 000. "That's a big goal and not one we could achieve in five or 10 years. But we believe it is perfectly achievable in a generation," Godsell said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

'Massive challenges' for SABC

It will take the rest of this year to stabilise the cash- and capacity-stricken SABC, members of Parliament's Communications Portfolio Committee heard yesterday. Briefing MPs, the Chairperson of the State-owned broadcaster's new board, Ben Ngubane, warned that "massive challenges" lay ahead. According to the SABC's financial statements, its revenue increased by only 0.9% up to the end of March last year, while its spending rose to 19%. Its loss before income tax was R913 million.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Biggest maizecrop in 29 years

South Africa expects to harvest its biggest maize crop in 29 years this year, boosted by good weather and higher plantings of the grain compared with previous years, the government said yesterday. It would reap 12.88-million tons of the staple in the current 2009-10 season - 1.54-million tons short of the record harvest of 14.42-million tons in the 1981-82 season.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Exports of maize quadruple

South Africa's weekly maize exports almost quadrupled last week, boosted by a sale to Kenya, data showed yesterday, while the most traded maize futures ended higher on firmer international prices overnight. White maize exports surged to 51 139 tons in the week to 19 February, compared with 12 972 tons in the previous week, the South African Grain Information Service (Sagis) said yesterday. Exports of yellow maize were at 2 433 tons, compared with 3 018 tons in the week before, Sagis said. The latest data showed that SA exported 38 651 tons of white maize to Kenya, while Mozambique bought most of the week's yellow maize sales with a purchase of 1 016 tons.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, South Africa's economic growth jumped 3.2%, well above market forecasts for a 2.5% rise and quickening from 0.9% in the third quarter, when SA first emerged from recession, data from Statistics SA showed yesterday; however this rise dampened speculation interest that rates would be cut again next month; and Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus urged to halt yesterday the debate about the ownership of the Bank, calling those behind it greedy and the concept of liquidation "nuts". In business, Absa Small Business has launched a new scheme to provide vendor financing to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which will assist them with their cash flow and enable them to provide a better service to the corporate sector.

NEWS REVIEWS

SARS extends deadlines

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) will extend its operating hours later this week to allow taxpayers to meet payment deadlines, SARS said in a statement on Tuesday. All branch offices will be open from 07:30 to 17:00 on Thursday and on Friday. "Taxpayers are reminded that manual VAT returns and payments are due for submission on Thursday 25 February 2010 and Provisional returns and payments on Friday 26 February 2010. "SARS urges taxpayers not to wait until the last day to make payments but to visit their nearest SARS branch office as soon as possible," the statement said. Taxpayers could also use internet banking or e-Filing to make payments instead of going into a branch office.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Stop Bank ownership debate - Marcus

Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus urged to halt yesterday the debate about the ownership of the Bank, calling those behind it greedy and the concept of liquidation "nuts". She said that proposals to pack the Bank's seven-member board with political appointees would "make it a very difficult working environment". Briefing Parliament's finance committee yesterday, Marcus said the "false debate" about the status of the Banks should stop. "This is something that is absolutely against the national interest, it is certainly against the interest of the central bank and in my view these people should not be allowed to get currency around it, as if this is real or doable. It is fundamentally against the principles, policies and objectives of the central bank," she said.

TIMES Business Times ; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

GDP growth surprises

South Africa's real gross domestic product rose by 3.2% in the fourth quarter of 2009 (at market prices on a quarter-on-quarter seasonally adjusted annualised basis), according to Statistics SA on Tuesday. For 2009, GDP growth came in at -1.8% year-on-year compared with +3.7% in 2008. There were no revisions to any of the quarters in 2009. Fourth quarter growth was expected to have come in at +2.6%, according to an I-Net Bridge survey of leading economists. The range of forecasts for the survey, among eight economists, was from 1.4% q/q to 3.2%. The first quarter of 2009 had ushered in the first recession in 17 years. It was also the worst figure since the third quarter of 1984 when GDP was at -6.5% and the first technical recession in South Africa since the fourth quarter of 1992.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK; EWN.CO.ZA; E NEWS DAY @ 13:00; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

GDP surge dashes hopes for rate cut

South Africa's economy grew much faster than expected in the final quarter of last year, boosted mainly by a hefty rebound in factory output, which dampened speculation interest that rates would be cut again next month. Economic growth jumped 3.2%, well above market forecasts for a 2.5% rise and quickening from 0.9% in the third quarter, when SA first emerged from recession, data from Statistics SA showed yesterday. "For me this number gives more comfort that the course of overall output is altering gradually, out of recession," said Rashid Cassim, Director-General at Stats SA. There were also encouraging remarks from the Reserve Bank.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SA's high rating for banks diluted by economy

The South African banking sector's stable competitive structure and sound financial regulation meant that it had limited exposure to external events, Standard & Poor's rating services said yesterday. These factors were, however, offset by the rating agency's view of weaknesses in South Africa's economic structure, including wide social inequalities and vulnerability to deterioration in the quality of loans to households, which carry a relatively high level of debt. SA's banking industry country risk assessment was placed in group 5, similar to banking systems in Bahrain, Poland, Kuwait and Brazil. According to the ranking, which is out of 10, Group 1 is the strongest.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

Absa starts new SME project

Absa Small Business has launched a new scheme to provide vendor financing to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which will assist them with their cash flow and enable them to provide a better service to the corporate sector. Absa yesterday said vendor finance provided funding to the SMEs from when they had been awarded a contract or issued with a purchase order by a corporate client. "Essentially, this means that SME suppliers can take advantage of growth opportunities and expand their service to the corporates," Absa head of market development for small business, Sisa Ntshona, said. Absa also wanted to help corporates improve their black economic empowerment score based on preferential procurement and enterprise development.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The news that FIFA will make more category-four World Cup tickets available is good news for all parties concerned in the build-up to the tournament. These tickets will be available exclusively to South Africans, and, as they are priced at R140 each, will also be affordable for most locals. This will increase the likelihood that the stadiums will be a near or full capacity for all the matches, and will give South Africans an opportunity to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Full stadiums will also impact greatly on the perceived success of the tournament, and will significantly eliminate one of FIFA's and the Local Organising Committee's major headaches. It is clear therefore that the availability of more category-four tickets is a win-win situation all-round, but mostly for those who should benefit mostly from the tournament - the South African people.

News Reviews

FIFA denies that World Cup ticket prices to be cut

FIFA has denied that it will cut World Cup ticket prices or give away free seats to ensure stadiums are filled to capacity at this year's tournament in South Africa. World football's governing body will, however, seek to increase the number of category-four seats, which will be priced at R140 each and will only be available to South African residents.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day

Ibrahimovic rescues Barca

A second-half equaliser from Zlatan Ibrahimovic's earned holders Barcelona a 1-1 draw against VfB Stuttgart in their Champions League last 16, first leg match against yesterday.

In Athens, Girondins Bordeaux beat Olympiakos Piraeus 1-0 in their last 16, first leg encounter.

STAR, Sport

United close in on Chelsea

Manchester United beat West Ham United 3-0 in an English Premier League match last night to close within one point of Chelsea at the top of the table.

STAR, Sport

One change for Stormers

Stormers coach Allister Coetzee made only one change to his starting line-up yesterday for Friday's Super 14 match against the Brumbies in Cape Town. Pieter Louw comes in for injured flank Schalk Burger, with Pieter Myburgh taking Louw's place on the bench.

THE TIMES

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.7236	(-0.0188)
Rand - Sterling £	11.9144	(+0.0288)
Rand - Euro €	10.4647	(+0.0107)
JSE Allshare	27055.5	(-228.66)
Gold	1107.0	(-8.25)
Platinum	1518.0	(-17.00)
Brent Crude Oil	77.7	(-0.88)

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

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	19	(25)
Cape Town	20	(27)
Durban	23	(31)
East London	21	(27)
Johannesburg	16	(26)
Kimberley	18	(26)
Mafikeng	19	(27)
Nelspruit	19	(27)
Pietermaritzburg	19	(32)
Polokwane	15	(24)
Port Elizabeth	20	(26)
Pretoria	19	(27)