

THE FRONT PAGE

Making headlines this morning, President Jacob Zuma's second wife, Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma, has apparently escaped eviction from her plush Durban house - after a dispute with the wealthy businessmen who help to bankroll the first family was resolved at the last minute; Public Enterprises Minister Barbara Hogan was forced to walk out of a meeting with then Eskom chairperson Bobby Godsell following a fierce altercation between him and ousted former chief executive Jacob Maroga; Cabinet has expressed its satisfaction at the state of readiness for the World Cup; and warnings that Greece's debt rating may be cut within a month hit the euro yesterday amid fresh fear of contagion as Greece struggles to reduce the largest European Union budget deficit.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: the Cabinet is satisfied at the state of the readiness of the World Cup, Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said yesterday; while according to FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke the pitch at the Soccer City stadium is of high quality and the stadium is eye-catchingly beautiful, but there is still work to be done before the venue is ready; President Jacob Zuma's second wife, Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma, has apparently escaped eviction from her plush Durban house - after a dispute with the wealthy businessmen who help to bankroll the first family was resolved at the last minute; The Cape Town man who was arrested for gesturing at President Jacob Zuma's blue-light convoy is pressing ahead with a damages claim against the police, his lawyer said yesterday.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Zuma wife in eviction row

President Jacob Zuma's second wife, Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma, has apparently escaped eviction from her plush Durban house - after a dispute with the wealthy businessmen who help to bankroll the first family was resolved at the last minute. MaNthuli had been given 30 days to pack her bags and faced the prospect of being at the centre of a legal battle if she refused to leave the exclusive Durban mansion by 31 March. The home, where she lives with two of Zuma's children, was leased in 2005 by one of Zuma's benefactors, Erwin Ullbricht, through a company called Nxamalala Investments cc. The firm is not registered on the Companies and Intellectual Property Office. But according to the Deeds Register, the house is owned by Abdul Rahim Malek, who bought it for R825 000 in 1996.

STAR

Student sues for damages over VIP convoy arrest

The Cape Town man who was arrested for gesturing at President Jacob Zuma's blue-light convoy is pressing ahead with a damages claim against the police, his lawyer said yesterday. "The claim will be instituted in the High Court, and counsel has been briefed accordingly," said Port Elizabeth attorney Neil O'Brien. He also said the student, Chumani Maxwele, had been told by the police to make a written apology to Zuma, and had not done so voluntarily. Maxwele was arrested on 10 February by members of Zuma's VIP protection detail after gesturing - according to police, with his middle finger - at the convoy as it passed him on a Cape Town road.

STAR

'Kill whites' Facebook page not ours - PAC

The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) has distanced itself from a Facebook page that allowed posts calling for the killing of "f***ing whites". "This is extremely offensive. It is hate speech," PAC Secretary-General Mfanelo Skwatsha told The Citizen yesterday. He pointed out that, contrary to media reports, the Facebook site, which contained the offensive messages did not belong to the party, but to a senior PAC member in Western Cape. "We have instructed him to shut it down. He was operating the site under the guise of the party without our knowledge."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Soccer City not quite ready, says FIFA official

The pitch at the Soccer City stadium is of high quality and the stadium is eye-catchingly beautiful, but there is still work to be done before the venue is ready. This is according to FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke. "Yesterday (Wednesday) I went to Soccer City. Clearly there's still some work to do," Valcke told local and international journalists in Sandton yesterday. He said, however, that the pitch at Soccer City was of "real quality" - a crucial requirement for World Cup host stadiums.

STAR

It's all systems go, says Cabinet

The Cabinet is satisfied at the state of the readiness of for the World Cup, Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said yesterday. Briefing the media on the Cabinet's regular fortnightly meeting held on Wednesday, he said a progress report received on the preparations indicated "it's all systems go". The highlights of the report included that all stadiums were ready for the event, and upgrades at OR Tambo International Airport, Cape Town International and Mangaung had been completed to world-class standards.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

POLITICAL NEWS

ANCyl slams Mboweni's AngloGold appointment

Former SA Reserve Bank governor Tito Mboweni's appointment as AngloGold Ashanti's new chairperson was a reward for having protected the interests of "male white capital", the African National Congress Youth League said on Wednesday. "Tito Mboweni's appointment into a mining corporation is not at all surprising and reflects the reactionary, nonsensical and backward views he expressed when he was the mis-Governor of the South African Reserve Bank that Mines will not be nationalised in South Africa," it said in a statement. Mboweni's appointment, or any other "amount of diversions - including by co-opted black reactionaries, would not deter the ANC Youth League from forging forward with the nationalisation of mines", it said. Mboweni's appointment takes effect from 1 June 2010.

BUSREP.CO.ZA; IAFRICA.COM - BUSINESS; FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Malema tweets his point

African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President Julius Malema has started a blog and a Twitter account. The embattled politician has garnered over 50 followers and appears to be somewhat paranoid with some of his tweets. "Someone is just waiting there with a microphone and camera for me to 'embarrass' myself," he wrote, in an apparent reference to a party at his Sandton home, where, according to reports, people were intimidated by ANCyl members. In a thinly veiled reference to his lifestyle, he remained defiant. "I will never be locked up in this country. Never! I have not done anything wrong," he tweeted. On his blog he said, "It is widely known that woodwork is not one of my strengths. Call me controversial or arrogant, but my view of my personality is that of a confident African child who is not ashamed of who he is".

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Call for MEC lifestyle audits

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Gauteng on Thursday called on Premier Nomvula Mokonyane to institute lifestyle audits on senior politicians in the legislature. Member of the provincial legislature Jack Bloom said at the State of the Province debate he supported Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi's call for lifestyle audits on politicians and officials. "He is absolutely right that we need to be suspicious about how certain people can afford luxurious houses, cars, parties and holidays way above what is known about their earnings," said Bloom. "I challenge the premier to authorise lifestyle audits on all her MECs, all the heads of department, and also former MECs and former heads of department. We also need to include close relatives who may have become rich on government tenders."

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; EWN.CO.ZA; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 12:00

DA lashes 'tickets to buy votes'

Plans by the Manguang Local Municipality to buy 50 000 FIFA World Cup tickets to be distributed among citizens was criticised by the Democratic Alliance (DA) yesterday. DA Shadow Minister of Tourism Greg Krumbock said even at the entry rate of R140 a ticket, 50 000 tickets would cost the municipality about R7 million. "It appears on the face of it that these tickets will be used to buy votes," he said in Bloemfontein.

STAR

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

Task team to tackle media, police communication

A high-level task team will be formed to discuss communication problems between the media and police, the South African National Editors' Forum (Sanef) and the South African Police Service said in a joint statement on Wednesday. This was decided after a meeting between police National Commissioner Bheki Cele and a delegation from Sanef in Johannesburg on Wednesday. A variety of "operational communication issues" were discussed. The task team will comprise members from both parties. At Wednesday's meeting it was explained that police were restructuring their communications department as there are "too many" spokespersons all over the country.

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Scopa slams the Department of Justice

Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) has slammed the Department of Justice for not adhering to procedure during tender administration. On Wednesday, Scopa Committee Chairperson Themba Godi said the department had not followed due process and officials should be bought to book. A hearing on the 2008/2009 financial year found the department was only 50 % competent in administering tenders and only 15% competent in supply chain management. Investigations also revealed R69 million of the department's expenditure had been declared non-recoverable and that officials wrote off expenditure they could not account for.

YNEWS @ 07:00

Police quietly lower targets

The police have quietly lowered their target of reducing serious violent crime by between 7% and 10% annually. An official from the National Treasury said in Parliament on Wednesday that National Police Chief Bheki Cele has revised the percentages because the police have "failed" to reach the higher targets over the past couple of years. The police have now undertaken to reduce crimes such as murder, rape, hijackings and armed robberies at homes and business by between 4% and 7% each year. "The new target is low. Given the violent nature of crime in our country I don't think the broad public are going to be happy with this," Rendani Randela admitted to the portfolio committee on police.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Cop arrested for car theft

A 32-year-old police constable was arrested in Mthatha for car theft after he was found driving a stolen vehicle, Eastern Cape police said on Thursday. Superintendent Mzukisi Fatyela said the car was stolen from the King Sabata Dalindyebo municipality in December. The constable was arrested on Wednesday. "The colour of the vehicle had already been changed but an observant municipal worker recognised some marks where municipal stickers were placed," said Fatyela. He was expected to appear in the Mthatha Magistrate's Court on Friday. In a separate incident, four employees of the King Sabata Dalindyebo municipality were arrested for fraud. Fatyela said three cashiers and their supervisor were arrested on Wednesday for fraud relating to the disappearance of R2.2 million from the municipality in 2007. More arrests were expected to be made.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Four in court after Sun City manager slain

Four men have appeared in the Mogwase Magistrate's Court after they were found in possession of a cellphone belonging to a murdered gaming marketing manager at Sun City resort near Rustenburg. Police said the men, aged between 19 and 25, were arrested on Wednesday night at Ledig, a village a few kilometres away from Sun City.

STAR

Mandoza quizzed on friends' alleged fraud scheme

Kwaito star Mandoza has been quizzed by the Hawks following the Valentine's Day crash in which he was found injured in a car that has since been linked to asset fraud. Hawks spokesperson Musa Zondi said the specialised crime investigation unit was "happy with Mandoza's answers". "Mandoza was never implicated. We wanted to know how he ended up in a car linked to asset fraud," Zondi said.

STAR; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Spy agency denies document leak claim

The State Security Agency has denied ever handling an intelligence document to African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) leader Julius Malema containing a list of people targeting President supporters. "For the record, we wish to indicate that we do not have any knowledge of the document that is being referred to. It is not our conduct to give information to unauthorised individuals," ministerial spokesperson Brian Dube told the Citizen yesterday. Opposition parties are outraged at Malema's boasting that he was in possession of an intelligence document.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Selebi's lawyers to make representation to NPA

Former police chief Jackie Selebi is making representations to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to have the charges dropped are premature. His lawyers say they have raised certain issues with prosecutors but they are not confirming what those are. Selebi is due back in court on Monday morning when his corruption trial is due to resume. Eye Witness News say they understand that Selebi's lawyers are not yet in the process to making representations to prosecution's head Menzi Simelane. Those close to Selebi say that may only happen if the concerns his lawyers have raised with the prosecutors are dealt with. They also say the former commissioner is not personally keen on the idea of making representation to Simelane.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

LABOUR & UNION NEWS

'No whites', Denel tells students

No whites - this is the message to students who want to join the training programme of the Denel entity RheinMetall Denel Munitions (RDM), the trade union Solidarity said yesterday, warning that this approach is unfairly based on race. In terms of two notices from RDM regarding the company's artisan programme, only black, Indian and coloured students may apply to be included in the programme as artisans. In terms of the notices, unemployed young people are invited to apply for the training programme in Wellington, Boksburg and Boskop. The company is offering this valuable training opportunity to thirty chemical operators, three fitters, three fitter and turners, two electricians, one technical draughtsman and one instrument worker. Kaya FM reports that the trade union plans to sue the state owned arm's manufacturer for unfairly excluding whites from training as it is unconstitutional.

NEWS REVIEWS; BUSINESS DAY (National); KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00; TIMESLIVE.CO.ZA - TIMES LIVE

NEWS BRIEF

Local artists to party for Haiti

Local musicians are contributing towards helping re-build Haiti through their music. A host of top local artists will be performing at the M.A.D for Haiti benefit at Carnival City next month to raise funds for disaster relief in the Caribbean country. The lineup will include, among others, Little Sister, PJ Powers, Tasha Baxter, Evolver One and Denim. Some artists have also donated songs that can be downloaded online. The proceeds of the downloads will go towards the fund.

EWN.CO.ZA; HIGHVELD STEREO 94.7 NEWS @ 08:00

Grounded Interlink Airlines waits for liquidator

Interlink said on Wednesday all of its scheduled flights would remain grounded until a liquidator was appointed. A provisional order for liquidation was granted in the South Gauteng High Court this week following several months of financial difficulties. Interlink Airlines launched a voluntary application for liquidation last week which was issued and served shortly thereafter to all interested parties. The application was heard on Tuesday wherein a provisional order for liquidation was granted with a return time for the application in early May. A liquidator, once appointed, will then determine whether flight operations will resume and will do so in consultation with officials from the Transport Department and the Civil Aviation Authority.

94.7 NEWS @ 08:00

Court rules in favour of Zim farmers

SADC tribunal rulings against the seizure of farms in Zimbabwe should be registered, recognised and enforceable by the South African government, the High Court in Pretoria ordered on Thursday. Judge Garth Rabie ruled in favour of white farmers - represented by AfriForum - who have argued that the seizure of their land without compensation was a human rights abuse. Speaking outside the court, AfriForum's legal representative Willie Spies said the ruling was a "huge" coup for the farmers. "It is a moral victory. The court ruled that Zimbabwe should honour this ruling. They, the farmers, are desperate. The two tribunal rulings - in 2008 and 2009 - also declared that should compensation not be forthcoming, South Africa, as Southern African Development Community (SADC) member could attach Zimbabwe's assets as compensation.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24 TIMESLIVE.CO.ZA - TIMES LIVE; SAFM NEWS @ 13:00; EWN.CO.ZA; BUSINESS DAY (National); PRETORIA NEWS; CITIZEN (Second Edition); THE TIMES

More cheaper SWC tickets to be made available

As of April, soccer lovers will be able to buy tickets off the counter. With just over a hundred days to go before kick-off the organising committee yesterday confirmed it has recategorised its ticketing system to make more of the cheapest category tickets available. FIFA ticketing system has been criticised for its lottery format, meaning not everyone who applied during the earlier sales phases was successful. The cheaper tickets will be increased from the initial 11% of all of all available tickets to 29%. Over 2.2-million tickets have been sold and from 15 April the remaining tickets will be sold from dedicated ticketing outlets in all World Cup host cities.

ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; CITIZEN (Second Edition)

SA on slippery slope: Prof Jansen

How did Nelson Mandela's country end up on this precipice? This was the question which was posed by University of Free State rector and South African Institute of Race relations President Professor Jonathon Jansen in Johannesburg yesterday. Speaking on the topic "Politics of forgiveness: How I see South Africa's future", Jansen said. He bemoaned the state of morality in the country, citing President Jacob Zuma's extra-marital affair as one of the low points in South Africa's history. He said other crises facing the country were in the public education system, race relations, academic freedom, loss of public confidence and public behaviour.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Diski dancing at high noon

The South African public is invited to go out and Diski dance in the streets on Tuesday, 2 March 2010, at 12:00. The date marks the 100-day point to kick-off and, at noon, South Africans are encouraged to meet in the streets to celebrate and sing the national anthem to show the world we are ready to welcome them to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Spearheaded by the IMC, GCIS and SA Tourism, Fly the Flag was created to instil national pride and encourage South Africans to do their own, personal marketing job for the country. A number of 2010 partners including the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the SA government endorse this "Fly the Flag" campaign. It is aim is to engage South Africans and instil a sense of national pride around the 2010 World Cup.

BIZCOMMUNITY.COM

Replica of a Phoenician ship docks in PE

A replica of a Phoenician ship which dates back to 600 BC is recreating the first ever circumnavigation of Africa. The Phoenicia, which is the only one of its type in existence, entered Port Elizabeth's harbour late Wednesday for a stopover on its epic journey. It is being hosted by the Algoa Bay Yacht Club. The ancient-looking ship was met in Algoa Bay by a flotilla of much more modern yachts. The Phoenicia weighs 40 tons unladen and is 21.5m long. It left what is now Syria about 18 months ago and has been travelling down the East Coast of Africa since then at a maximum speed of about 20 km/h, a highly impressive rate considering that the design is more than 2 500 years old. The ship detoured almost to the Chagos Archipelago to avoid the pirate-infested Horn of Africa. The boat is traditionally built and sails in the traditional manner.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

Emergency Services fingered over faults

Johannesburg's Emergency Management Services (EMS) has come under fire for shortfalls in key areas - including World Cup readiness - in a recent report tabled before the council. When it comes to setting up a disaster management system centre; emergency preparedness; complying with complicated legislation; educating communities; retaining skills; and keeping staff motivated, the risks ranged from "major" to "catastrophic", the report found. The action taken to control the risks, meanwhile, was mostly "fair" or "poor". But the people responsible for steering the EMS ahead of the World Cup have dismissed fears raised in the report, saying they were ready and the chances of something going wrong were "0.000 something".

STAR

No wheelchair for man, 87, at OR Tambo

An 87-year-old great grandfather, who is barely able to walk, was wheeled about on a baggage trolley during a visit to OR Tambo International Airport after being told by airport staff that wheelchairs were reserved for passengers. The elderly man was at the airport on Saturday, 23 January around 16:00 with his son George and his daughter-in-law to welcome Basil, another of his sons, who was arriving from Australia. "My dad has just had two knee replacements, so he can't walk long distances," explained George.

STAR

Taxi bosses call off taxi strike

It appears that City of Johannesburg officials and taxi bosses have reached an agreement over the controversial Rapid Bus Transport (BRT) system; this follows a high level meeting last night. This means a planned taxi strike planed for today has been put on hold for now. Taxi operators are unhappy that the city is rolling out the final phase of BRT on Monday without consulting them first. A planned strike was called off yesterday but the message was slow to reach all the drivers who weren't sure if they should go to work. Commuters in some Johannesburg suburbs were left stranded as a result.

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

HEALTH NEWS

Walter Sisulu Paediatric Centre opens in Cape Town

The Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa (WSPPCA) has opened a pilot project in Cape Town and hope to save scores of city children. The project is at the Netcare Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital where they had already operated on three children. Started in 2004, the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa is a non-profit organisation which raises funds to pay for lifesaving surgery for children with congenital heart disorders.

CAPE TIMES

Groote Schuur Hospital's drive hit its target

Groote Schuur Hospital's drive to raise money to buy 20 life-saving incubators for its cash-strapped neonatal unit has reached its target. This week, the organisers of the campaign congratulated Capetonians for making the project a success after a 20th incubator was donated by a Cape Town night spot, the Chill Bar. The campaign was a joint initiative of the hospital's fundraising arm, the Newborns Groote Schuur Trust, Pick n Pay, the Cape Argus, Heart 104.9FM, I&J and Kite. Pick n Pay's regional manager, Abdurahman Hamdulay, said he was humbled by the generosity shown by shoppers and businesses. Donations of R10 and more can still be made at Pick n Pay until Sunday.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Measles and polio vaccines

The Health Department and the Msunduzi Municipality have urged all parents to take children, from infants to up to 15-years-old to their nearest clinic for extra doses of the measles and polio vaccine. Children that have been fully immunised must also have the vaccine. The dates of the campaign are 12 to 23 April and 24 to 28 May.

WITNESS

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Twelve arrested for deliberately digging potholes

Twelve Soweto residents were arrested on Wednesday for deliberately damaging the roads in Orlando West. Residents took the streets on Tuesday and started digging trenches in the roads in an attempt to stop motorists from speeding. The Johannesburg Roads Agency's Thulani Makhubela said this was a criminal act. The JRA is spending millions on repairing potholes on the city's roads following heavy rains in recent weeks. The agency adds that it is still in need of private partnerships to assist with funding.

YFM NEWS EXTRA @ 06:00

Cape Town: most creative city?

Cape Town is hoping to be the most creative city in the world by 2014. The title of World Design Capital is awarded biennially by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design to a city that harnesses design for social, cultural and economic development. The council was established in 1957 and is a global non-profit organisation celebrating the merits of design. The council has more than 150 members in more than 50 countries and represents some 150 000 designers in different fields. According to Andrew Boraine, chief executive of the Cape Town Partnership, the mother city will compete against cities in Japan, China, Brazil and Spain, among others. The bid will be submitted under the guidance of such institutions as Accelerate Cape Town and Cape Town Tourism.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

New supply chain management system for KZN

KwaZulu-Natal Finance MEC Ina Cronje has called for the reform of the province's supply chain management system so that the government does not get ripped off by contractors who inflate their prices. She said that the system is based on the premise that the government is not the price taker but the price maker, given the size of the procurement expenditure. The Treasury and the Office of the Premier is soon expected to give details on how the system will work.

WITNESS

Cape Town enters a race for World Design Capital

Cape Town has entered the race for the World Design Capital of 2014. The city is bidding to stake claim to the title arguing that several new developments make it a strong contender. Mayor Dan Plato is sending a delegation to this year's World Design Cities Summit in Seoul this month. Representatives from Cape Town Tourism and Cape Town Partnership will attend the summit.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Msunduzi municipal workers strike

Msunduzi Municipality workers held a strike outside the city hall yesterday morning. They are demanding that overtime payments owed to them by the municipality be paid. Despite police using rubber bullets to disperse them they have vowed to continue till they get what they want. They also want those responsible for the municipalities financial crisis to be suspended or fired.

WITNESS

Wave House water under scrutiny

The Wave House at the Gateway shopping complex in Umhlanga is concerned over allegations that the water quality is not up to standard. This follows the four children contracted bacterial infections after swimming at the complex on Saturday 13 February. Gateway centre management said tests conducted on the by the municipality has cleared the water. However, eThekweni water department head, Neil McLeod disputed the claim saying that samples of the water confirmed that it was not safe to swim in.

MERCURY

Gauteng speeding up liquor licenses for World Cup

Gauteng has set up special measures to ensure that the Liquor Board awards licenses in time for the 2010 World Cup. "Part of the strategy is to focus on limiting trading in the vicinity of schools, places of worship and irresponsible trading in dense residential areas," Economic Development MEC Firoz Cachalia said on Wednesday. Cachalia said the board will also address backlogs in licensing, improve revenue collections and eliminate fraud and illegal licenses. This will be a relief for organisers or owners of any public viewing event who will sell liquor during the soccer spectacular, especially following this week's confusion on the special liquor license for the World Cup. The draft liquor control policy, which recently caused an outcry from liquor sellers, was gazetted by the Department of Trade and Industry. Media reports claimed that organisers or owners of any public viewing event.

SA2010.GOV.ZA

KZN appoints task team to help black farmers

The KwaZulu Natal government has appointed a task team to help black farmers increase production in their farms. The key focus of the task team is building self sufficiency in agricultural production, especially food production. The announcement was made by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize during his State of the Province address in Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday. Mkhize said the Agri-business Development Agency would also support land reform programs. The agency has been allocated R239 million to support and rescue ailing and failed land reform projects. The announcement comes amid concerns over the growing number of previously disadvantaged farmers abandoning their projects. The plan is mainly aimed at supporting emerging black farmers.

SABCNEWS.CO.ZA - SABC NEWS

Big brother's watching over Cape Town

The City of Cape Town has installed 75 cameras close to fan parks ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It said this brings the total number of camera in the city to 283. The city said on average it rolls out 40 new cameras each year. But the municipality's JP Smith said more devices will be needed to monitor World Cup events and venues. Smith added more cameras are needed because of the expected influx of people.

EWN.CO.ZA

Cops fire at Brits protesters

Six people were injured on Thursday morning when police fired rubber bullets at protesting residents of Oukasi in Brits, North West police said. They were trying to force their way into the municipal building during a service delivery protest, and police had to fire rubber bullets to disperse them, said Captain Adele Myburgh. She said about 1 500 protesters barricaded the entrance to the township with stones and burning tyres from 06:00 and later moved to the municipal offices. "There were 1 500 people wanting to force their way to the building. Six of them were injured when police tried to disperse them, and a few were arrested for public violence," she said, adding that the residents were complaining about the quality of water in the Madibeng municipality.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

Katlehong water supply cut

The water supply to Katlehong, on the East Rand, has been cut for maintenance, the Ekurhuleni metropolitan municipality said on Thursday. Spokesperson Zweli Dlamini said the water supply was disrupted on Wednesday, but that the interruption had been prolonged because of an unexpected problem with the main feeder pipe at the Credi Reservoir. "The municipality is currently supplying emergency water to residents of Katlehong using tankers... stationed at Credi Reservoir admin triangle and in Huntersfield." Dlamini said a team was working to resolve the problem and restore the water supply.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

2010 party bid: Black Pepper gets up noses

The eThekweni municipality's preferred bidder for the R65 million entertainment contract for the World Cup has links to the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the municipality and the Moses Mabhida Stadium. That the company is also not "100 percent local" has many at the heart of Durban's entertainment industry furious. They have hit out at the employment of the Black Pepper Consortium instead of purely Durban-based companies for the lucrative contract to oversee and manage events at the official FIFA Fan Fest, beach festival and public viewing areas in Umlazi and KwaMashu. Locals in the entertainment industry are unhappy because Durban companies would only benefit from the World Cup as subcontractors to the consortium - which would take at least R9.1 million in management fees.

IOL.CO.ZA

EDUCATION NEWS

12 new schools and 200 classrooms are to be built

Twelve new schools and 200 classrooms are to be built in the Western Cape as the administration deals with increased demand for places in overcrowded schools. Education MEC Donald Grant said that these projects were part of a broad plan to tackle the backlog of infrastructure in the province. The new schools will be environmentally-friendly and sustainable.

CAPE TIMES

School hostel closed due to lesbianism

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is investigating allegations of lesbian relationships at the hostel of a South Coast school. Two female educators were caught kissing at the hostel this week according to education officials. The education department has warned that schools do not have the right to expel or remove pupils due to sexual orientation.

MERCURY

A draft amendment bill on education

A draft amendment bill which prohibits political activities on school grounds during school hours and makes provision for school inspections will be published for public comments in the next week. Western Cape Education MEC Donald Grant made the announcement after Cabinet approved the request.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

Cutting social grant fraud could save R1bn

The Social Development Department believes it could save a R1 billion if it eradicates fraudulent grant claims. The department has revealed its investigating hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries. On Wednesday it said if it was successful in cutting out the graft, money would be available to hike the child support grant further this year. Social Development's Selwyn Jehoma said the department was considering increasing the grant again in October, but that would depend on how many fraudsters they cut out of the system.

EWN.CO.ZA

Zuma hopes to build on World Cup momentum

President Jacob Zuma says South Africa's public works programme will continue after the World Cup to try to build on infrastructure projects and boost employment. Zuma said on Thursday the government had put aside more than R800 billion to invest in infrastructure after the tournament finished. "We have put a lot of money so it will move from there forward, so there is no decline," Zuma said. South Africa has invested billions getting ready for the continent's first World Cup, kicking off on 11 June, but hopes to recoup that and more through investment and tourism in years to come. Spending on infrastructure is expected to contribute 0.5 percent to GDP in 2010 and Zuma said the preparations had furnished workers with new skills.

IOL.CO.ZA; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 12:00; SAFM NEWS @ 12:00

Warm welcome for SAA's new CEO

The African National Congress (ANC) and Democratic Alliance (DA) have welcomed the appointment of Siza Mzimela as Chief Executive of South Africa Airways (SAA). "In line with our objectives of creating a non-sexist and gender-sensitive society, we welcome Siza's appointment as the first woman to head SAA," the ANC said yesterday. The ANC added it was concerned about the leadership vacuum at senior management level in some of South Africa's state-owned enterprises. The DA called Mzimela's appointment a "step in the right direction" in solving SAA's management crisis.

STAR

Energy minister implores municipalities to heed Nersa's guidelines

Energy Minister Dipuo Peters on Thursday implored South Africa's municipalities to heed the energy regulator's guidelines on how the tariff increases granted to Eskom should be passed on to residential consumers. In the past, municipal distributors have passed on the full burden, despite their tariffs already being materially higher than the wholesale tariff, and despite that fact that the electricity component of their tariff accounted for only around 67%. The National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) has approved a nominal Eskom power tariff increase of 24.8% as from 1 April 2010; and subsequent increases of 25.8% and 25.9% for 2011/12 and 2012/13 respectively. Speaking at a Cabinet media briefing, Peters said that the guidelines effectively "capped" municipal tariff increase to around 15% in 2010/11, which would help dampen the effect on residential consumers, if implemented.

ENGINEERINGNEWS.CO.ZA; FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

How the fur flew in Eskom's board room

Public Enterprises Minister Barbara Hogan was forced to walk out of a meeting with then Eskom chairperson Bobby Godsell following a heated altercation between him and ousted former CEO Jacob Maroga. Hogan had to ask Maroga to leave a subsequent Eskom board meeting after he insisted on presiding, despite a dispute over his status as chief executive. Maroga, who was fired in November, is suing the utility and demanding reinstatement of R85 million for loss of income. He accused the board and the minister of conspiring to fire him illegally, under the veil of a voluntary resignation. In her court papers, Hogan refutes Maroga's claims and details dramatic events at the parastatal before and after his axing. The minister argued that, even if the court found that Maroga was unfairly dismissed, he should not be reinstated as chief executive.

THE TIMES

ANC drops charges against Rasool and Ozinsky

The African National Congress (ANC) has dropped disciplinary charges against two prominent Western Cape members, former premier Ebrahim Rasool and MPL Max Ozinsky. The party said that the move presents an amicable settlement. The pair were suspended over a public spat over allegations by Premier Helen Zille that Ozinsky leaked information to the Democratic Alliance to undermine Rasool.

CAPE TIMES; KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Energy minister dodges issue of ANC's stake in energy

Energy Minister Dipuo Peters acknowledged that she had "not applied her mind" to the matter of the ruling alliance having existing, and possibly new, business interests in the electricity industry through the African National Congress's (ANC's) investment arm, Chancellor House. The minister also admitted to mistakenly saying that the government was considering extending private investment in electricity provision beyond generation to transmission. At a press briefing in which she declared Cabinet support for the National Energy Regulator of SA's decision on tariff hikes, she noted that it was an independent body that was doing its job. Peters said that household users would probably pay lower rates than the average 25% increases, somewhere in the region of 15%. This was apparently because larger industrial users would pay significantly more for power than the average. However, households using a lot of power would also be penalised.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star), ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Acsa fee hike a lot less than requested

The government has warned that although it was important for Airports Company South Africa (Acsa) to be granted a tariff increase in line with its investment programme keeping passengers flying was just as important. Jeremy Cronin, the Deputy Transport Minister, this week said one had to be sympathetic towards Acsa, especially because it was not a unilateral decision on its part to build and upgrade airports that had to be ready before the World Cup, which is scheduled for kick-off in three months.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Libya land deal put on hold

A new land deal allowing South African farmers to produce livestock; milk; and fruit in Libya has been put on hold pending the finalisation of an investment protection agreement between the two countries. "We were happy with the opportunities we were offered in Libya, but the problem now is that the investment protection agreement between the South African and Libyan governments has not been ratified, we are not fully protected if we go there," Theo de Jager, the Deputy President of Farmers Union AgriSA, said yesterday.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESSDAY.CO.ZA - BUSINESS DAY

Tshwane ANC denies Ramokgopa coup plot

The African National Congress' Tshwane Regional Executive Committee on Thursday denied knowledge of a top secret document outlining a plan to unseat Mayor Gwen Ramokgopa. The plan was apparently drafted after the new REC was elected in September last year. Many of the details contained in the document have already transpired. The ANC labelled the leaked document a "smear campaign" aimed at discrediting the party. It called on party members to unite against those who seek to undermine the leadership elected in September last year. The plan, called Operation Clean Up, outlines four phases, the last of which would see Ramokgopa and five of her allies removed from office.

EWN.CO.ZA

Govt 'won't tolerate' violent protests

The Cabinet reiterated its view on Thursday that violent protests and general lawlessness will not be tolerated. Briefing the media on Thursday, following Cabinet's regular fortnightly meeting on Wednesday, Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane said the meeting had discussed the protest action taking place in some parts of the country. "And Cabinet wishes to re-assure communities throughout the country that we have heard your concerns," he said. The government had already declared 2010 the year of action to deal with communities' most urgent needs. "We have a plan to increase the capacity of local government to enable them to expedite service delivery to all our communities".

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24

SWC not just about soccer - Zuma

Johannesburg - South Africa was not preparing to just host a soccer festival ahead of the World Cup, it was building the country, President Jacob Zuma said on Thursday. "Our endeavours have put us and our abilities to the test and made us strive toward our goals with even more determination that ever before," Zuma told the Tourism, Sport and Mega Events summits in Johannesburg. Zuma said that as the world emerged from a global economic downturn, the time had come for the rebuilding and reigniting of the economy as well as the travel and tourism sectors.

NEWS24.COM - NEWS 24; SAFM NEWS @ 13:00;

JZ wants tourism to boost GDP

President Jacob Zuma wants tourism's contribution to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to increase by double digits in the next five years, he said yesterday. "Our view is that the sector requires undivided attention to enable it to boost our economic growth considerably," he told the Tourism, Sport and Mega Events Summit, in Sandton.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

BUSINESS BRIEF

In Business news today, the PPI - which tracks the cost of goods leaving factories and mines - rose in January, Statistics SA said on Thursday. PPI for January increased to 2.7% year-on-year from 0.7 percent in December. Within hours of the Competition Commission appealing against the Competition Tribunal's R196 million fine on Pioneer Foods in the bread cartel matter and indicating that it was seeking a R1.5 billion fine, Pioneer announced that it would cross-appeal. Spur's MD, Pierre van Tonder, yesterday expressed concern about the fast-food group's transformation of top management and said it would report its BEE rating later this year. More flexibility in auditing requirements for businesses in SA was unlikely to reduce the work of auditors and accountants, but would make the regulatory burden for smaller businesses more effective, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies has said.

NEWS REVIEWS

Finer points of new Companies Act outlined

More flexibility in auditing requirements for businesses in South Africa was unlikely to reduce the work of auditors and accountants, but would make the regulatory burden for smaller businesses more effective, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said yesterday. The requirements for financial reporting for smaller companies had been simplified, he said. They did not need audited financial statements, but financial reporting at "an appropriate lower level." Explaining the finer details of the new Companies Act promulgated by his ministry, Davies said the act would also make directors liable for losses arising from unlawful decisions, while introducing the concept of business rescue schemes, which he described as "the major innovation".

BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National)

Now Pioneer appeals tribunal fine

Within hours of the Competition Commission appealing against the Competition Tribunal's R196 million fine on Pioneer Foods in the bread cartel matter and indicating that it was seeking a R1.5 billion fine, Pioneer announced that it would cross-appeal. Pioneer said if it was successful, the fine levied by the tribunal might be reduced. The commission believes that Pioneer should have been fined 10% of group turnover on each of the two bread-related charges against it. This implies a total fine of R1.5 billion, which is equivalent to 20% of Pioneer's market capitalisation. In a Stock Exchange News Service (Sens) announcement yesterday, Pioneer noted that providing for the R196 million fine would result in earnings a share for the six months to March decreasing by between 25% and 45% from a year earlier. If not, earnings were expected to increase between 20% and 40%.

BUSINESS REPORT (National); CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 06:00

State to review laws affecting agriculture

South Africa has launched a review of all laws affecting agriculture, forestry and fisheries to safeguard food security, contribute to rural development and make the sectors more globally competitive amid falling agricultural commodity prices and high input costs. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tina Joemat-Petersson said at a conference yesterday that the review was "very radical but absolutely necessary". Outdated laws and policies would be revised to comply with international treaties and protocols to open African and European markets to SA farmers.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Factory prices move higher

The Producer Price Index (PPI) - which tracks the cost of goods leaving factories and mines - rose in January, Statistics SA said on Thursday. PPI for January increased to 2.7% year-on-year from 0.7 percent in December. The Pretoria-based agency said the higher annual rate could be explained by increases in the annual rate of change in producer price indices for forestry, mining and quarrying, products of petroleum and coal, and transport. These increases were partially counteracted by decreases in the annual rate of change for agriculture, beverages, and paper and paper products.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK; BUSINESS REPORT (National); BUSINESS DAY (National); TIMES, THE (First Edition) Business Times; CITIZEN, Citi Business

Companies prepare for World Cup disruptions

The 2010 World Cup, starting in June, might present some disruptions for business, information sharing organisation Executives Global; Networking (EGN) said yesterday. Some of South Africa's top executives, chief financial officers and human resources executives have been meeting to discuss how their businesses could be negatively affected and how to effectively prepare for possible disruptions during the tournament. "We are currently discussing, in the context of the World Cup, issues such as absenteeism, business crime, staff leave and delivery delays," EGN Managing Director Martin Humphries said. "A large proportion of staff are going to want to take leave during the World Cup... Companies may well be looking at a Christmas shutdown scenario in the middle of the year."

BUSINESS REPORT (National); STAR

NHFC applies to have Sea Kay liquidated

The National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC) has applied for the liquidation of Sea Kay Holdings and one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. However, Pieter van der Schyf, an Executive Director and acting Chairperson of Sea Kay, confirmed yesterday that it was opposing the application because it had legal opinion that the actions instituted by the NHFC were factually and legally flawed. The listed mass affordable housing construction company had a reasonable prospect of successfully defeating the application. Delca Maluleke, an NHFC spokesperson, confirmed yesterday that it had launched an application for the liquidation of Sea Kay Holdings. She said the NHFC expected the application to be heard in April.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

Nafcoc consortium cries foul on allocations

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nafcoc) Broadcasting Consortium is calling for an inquiry into the relationship between the sector regulator and broadcasting firms such as e.tv and Naspers's subsidiaries. The consortium, led by Nafcoc, is unhappy with the revised terrestrial television digital migration regulations because it claims that the regulator is still protecting free-to-air channel e.tv and pay-TV provider M-Net's monopoly and is not addressing its issues of allocating new channels to black-owned companies. The Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) decisions have often been challenged by operators and last year it withdrew the digital migrations regulations following an interdict by e.tv.

BUSINESS REPORT (National)

BANKING BRIEF

Banking news this morning focused on business as Nedbank's headline earnings for the year to December had slipped 25.8%, as consumers came under severe pressure from falling income and job losses. It also set the bar low for growth in 2010 and said it would take longer than expected to flush bad debts from its system; and Liberty Holdings, a wealth management and insurance group, maintained the dividend of 291c per share in a bold statement to the market that it was positive about its prospects despite a slump in earnings. Looking at the economy, the rand slid to its weakest level in almost four months and bond yields traded near five-month lows as power price hikes were below expectations, improving the inflation outlook and boosting the likelihood of a rate cut.

NEWS REVIEWS

Rand slumps, bond yields fall on rate cut bets

The rand slid to its weakest level in almost four months and bond yields traded near five-month lows as power price hikes were below expectations, improving the inflation outlook and boosting the likelihood of a rate cut. The currency lost as much as 1.8% to R7.8935 a dollar and was bid at R7.8520 at 17:00, the biggest fall among emerging market currencies. The benchmark 13.5% bond due in September 2015 yielded 8.22%, 2 basis points below Wednesday's close.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Liberty's lapsing policies slash full-year profit

Liberty Holdings' full-year profit plunged after customers allowed policies to lapse, the insurer, which is controlled by Standard Bank, said yesterday. Net income declined from R1.1 billion to R44 million. The average estimate for four analysts was for a loss of R18.4 million. "The year can be characterised by the cost of derisking the balance sheet in the first half and the impact of a significant decline in policyholder persistency," said the company. "The group, however, returned to profitability in the second half of the year, mainly due to persistency not deteriorating and improved financial markets". It has underperformed Sanlam, Discovery and Metropolitan for most of the past 12 years.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Nedbank earnings plummet by 25.8%

Nedbank's headline earnings for the year to December had slipped 25.8%, as consumers came under severe pressure from falling income and job losses, South Africa's third-biggest bank said yesterday. Mike Brown, the Chief Executive-designate at Nedbank said that basic earnings had fallen by 24.7% to R4.8 billion, as credit quality deteriorated during the financial year, with impairments worsening. The bank said that diluted headline earnings a share declined by 29.8% to R9.83. Brown, who will take over as chief executive of Nedbank on Monday, said the results were in line with expectations. "These results were in the middle range of the target range," he noted.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Millions lost in scheme as advisers feast

Investors have lost millions in a newly-discovered investment scam, resulting in two government agencies recommending that criminal action be instituted against directors of the so-called Garek scheme. Also considered for prosecution are financial services providers who assisted with marketing the product. A Department of Trade and Industry investigation found that the funds received from the various companies associated with the scheme totalled R179 million, of which R74 million was received from investors and R76.4 million apparently from inter-company deposits. However, R24 million of the amount received was paid to the directors and a further R61 million to brokers or other identifiable individuals and entities.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Advice on Garek wasn't adequate

Andre van der Merwe, an authorised financial services provider from Uvongo in KwaZulu-Natal, has been ordered to repay a couple from Pretoria their investment of R40 000 plus interest from the date of the investment in the Garek scheme. A Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the scheme said it appeared Van der Merwe had received almost R4.5 million in commission for the sale of shares to the public. Charles Pillai, the ombudsman for financial service providers, ordered Van der Merwe to repay the investment of Pretoria engineer Adolf Jacobus Hare and his wife Christina. Pillai added that there was no evidence that proper documentation had been maintained, including a record of the advice given and disclosures made to the complainants.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Accéntuate sees demand improving

AltX-listed infrastructure and construction group Accéntuate said on Thursday demand from the private sector is on the mend. "There has been a discernible comeback in private sector construction activity," said CEO Fred Platt, adding it will especially benefit the group's Centurion Glass & Aluminium (CGA) business. "Demand in the chemical sector has been steadily increasing too." Accéntuate is involved in the manufacturing and distribution of infrastructural supplies and maintenance, including flooring, glass and aluminium as well as chemical cleaning. The group is also eyeing opportunities offered by the state's infrastructure programme. "The group can take advantage of the opportunities that are presented in the infrastructure development plan as presented by government with emphasis on the upgrading and construction of hospitals, clinics, schools and the public transport sectors.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

South African national football coach Carlos Alberto Parreira's surprise inclusion of Bradley Carnell in his squad for next week's friendly international against Namibia is a positive move by the Brazilian in the run-up to the World Cup. While finalising his squad, it would be advisable for Parreira to experiment with as many players as possible to select his strongest team from all the available players. This will ensure that an unknown or forgotten name who could star for South Africa at the tournament is given a chance to prove himself and book his spot in the final squad. Talent may come from anywhere in the world where South African players are based so it is a step in the right direction that Parreira is looking to all corners. This will also force veteran players to up their game to maintain their spot, which will contribute towards an improved overall team performance.

News Reviews

Parreira springs surprise selections

Bafana Bafana coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has made a few surprising selections for next Wednesday's friendly international against Namibia. German-based Bradley Carnell, whose last international call-up was more than 16 months ago, has been included, as has Greece-based Bryce Moon, whose last call-up was for the FIFA Confederations Cup last year. Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Lebohang Mokoena has also been given a final chance to impress Parreira after years out of the national fold.

STAR, Sport

Liverpool, Fulham advance

English Premier League clubs Liverpool and Fulham advanced to the last 16 of the Europa League last night. Liverpool beat Romanian side Unirea Urziceni 3-1 to secure their passage, while Fulham eliminated Uefa Cup holders Shakhtar Donetsk en route to the last 16. Serie A club AS Roma, however, crashed out following a 3-2 home defeat to Panathinaikos.

THE TIMES

Muir picks Earle in place of Stoltz

Lions coach Dick Muir has surprisingly included lock George Earle in his starting line-up for tomorrow's Super 14 match against the Hurricanes in place of the suspended Willem Stoltz. Earle's inclusion is the only change to the starting 15 that lost 72-65 to the Chiefs last week. There were, however, two changes to the bench, with Walter Venter coming in for Burton Francis and Robert Kruger replacing Jonathan Mokuena.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

Mulaudzi to face stiff opposition in debut

World 800m champion Mbulaeni Mulaudzi will face stiff opposition when he makes his outdoor season debut in the second leg of the Yellow Pages Series in Durban tonight. Mulaudzi's first race will be over 1 500m, where he will be up against South African junior 3 000m record holder Tshamano Setone and Elroy Gelant, who contested a memorable 5 000m race in Port Elizabeth last week. World long jump silver medallist Khotso Mokoena will also make his first appearance of the season, as will LJ van Zyl and Ruben Ramolefi in the 400m hurdles and 3 000m steeplechase respectively.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Sports Day

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.8520	(-0.1340)
Rand - Sterling £	12.0073	(-0.0892)
Rand - Euro €	10.5994	(-0.1014)
JSE Allshare	26731.9	(-201.23)
Gold	1094.5	(-8.50)
Platinum	1514.0	(+10.00)
Brent Crude Oil	76.3	(-1.81)

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

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	14	(28)
Cape Town	19	(28)
Durban	22	(26)
East London	19	(23)
Johannesburg	16	(23)
Kimberley	14	(30)
Mafikeng	14	(26)
Nelspruit	20	(26)
Pietermaritzburg	18	(24)
Polokwane	16	(25)
Port Elizabeth	18	(23)
Pretoria	18	(25)