



# SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SWAZILAND

## SIHLANGU HEAD COACH UNVEILED



The National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) officially unveiled the Senior Men's National Team, Sihlangu SeMnikati Head Couch Pietier De Jongh in a press conference that was held at Sigwaca House in Mbabane. His unveiling was done by the President of the NFAS on behalf of the Executive Committee of the NFAS.

When making his remarks, the President of the NFAS acknowledged the interest that the public shows in as far as the national team is concerned which indicates the passion that the nation have for Sihlangu SeMnikati. "In terms of categorization, we are in category C+, which implies that we are very much close in getting to category

**"IN TERMS OF CATEGORIZATION, WE ARE IN CATEGORY C+, WHICH IMPLIES THAT WE ARE CLOSE IN GETTING TO B, WHICH INDICATES PROGRESS IN OUR FOOTBALL, AS THE AIM IS TO GET INTO CATEGORY B".**

football.

Pieter De Jongh will be assisted by Anthony Mdluli, Themba Dlamini is the Goalkeeper Coach, Sandile Zwane is the team Manager and Richard Fakudze is the team's security personnel.

as the aim is to get into category B", said the President of the NFAS. He also highlighted that it is important that as a country we at least qualify for the CAF major competition as a sign of growth in our

## SWAZI FOOTBALL IS GOOD - HEAD COACH



The Senior Men's National Team's Coach Pietier De Jongh is very much impressed by the Swazi football after he watched Mbabane swallows FC walloping Azam FC 3-0 at the Somhlolo National Stadium. He highlighted that Swaziland has a lot of talent in terms of football. When quizzed about the chances of Mbabane Swallows progressing in the TOTAL CAF CONFEDERATION Cup, the Dutchman said, "To what I saw from this team, it is possible as Mbabane Swallows FC plays good football with a lot of discipline ". He was is also impressed by the leadership skills of Mbabane Swallows Captain, Tony Tsabedze.

**TOTAL CAF CONFEDERATION CUP**



After eliminating Azam FC from Tanzania, Mbabane Swallows FC was drawn against AC Leopards from Congo Brazzaville for the play-off qualification match. This draw took place on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at CAF Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, in an event that was conducted by CAF General Secretary Hicham El Amrani who was assisted by Hezem El Hawary, a member of the CAF Interclub Committee.

The first leg of this encounter took place in Congo Brazzaville at the Stade Denis

Sassou Nguesso which has a capacity of 5 000 spectators. This match was played on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. AC Leopards won this encounter by an odd goal. The second leg was played at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 1500hrs. Mbabane Swallows FC cancelled a 2-0 deficit on the day and won the encounter by 4-2. This made Mbabane Swallows FC to be the first Swazi club to reach the group stages of a CAF interclub competition as the aggregate score was 4-3

in favour of them. When the Angolan referee, blew the final whistle, the Somhlolo National Stadium was abuzz as the local fans celebrated Mbabane Swallows FC's victory. What a game and what a style for the home team in qualifying for the group stages of the TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup Competition. Bravo Mbabane Swallows!!!

**TOTAL CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Royal Leopards represented the country in the TOTAL CAF Champions League. The Royal Swaziland Police Force Club was drawn against AS Vita Club in the preliminary round of the competition. The first match was played at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. In this match, two Swazi internationals played against Royal Leopards, which gave the local fans an

opportunity to watch Mthunzi Mkhontfo and Felix Badernhost in action for their Democratic of Republic of Congo club. In this match, the local side lost by an odd goal. The second leg was played a week later, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Stade des Martyrs in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The local side lost this encounter by 3-1 which made the aggregate score to be 4-1 in favour of As

Vita Club. This result meant the end of the local side in the TOTAL CAF Champions League.



**MVA      INGWENYAMA      CUP**  
**COMPETITION**



Mbabane Swallows were crowned the Ingwenyama Cup Champions after defeating Young Buffalos in an exciting final that was watched by His Majesty King Mswati III on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Somhlolo National Stadium. This was the second edition of this unique tournament where football is blended with culture. The 2016/2017 edition showed some growth when compared to the 2015/2016 edition in a number of ways. The latest addition commenced from the regional level where by the regional teams competed for Forty Thousand Emalangenani (E40, 000.00) plus 4 slots to be part of the national MVA Ingwenyama Cup completion. The eventual regional champions were Manchester United from the Hhohho region who defeated Rangers FC from the Shiselweni region in a match that was played at King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium. The new format of this competition saw an increase in the number of matches played, clubs participation and of course the total sponsorship. The total sponsorship was Three Million Two Hundred Thousand Emalangenani (E3, 200, 000.00), which showed an improvement of E200, 000.00 when compared to the 2015/2017 edition. This was good for football as it presented a rare opportunity for the regional clubs to compete in a high

level tournament and of course with a Royal taste.

As an icing on top of the cake, the prize presentation of this Majestic competition was blessed by the presence of His Majesty King Mswati III in a ceremony that was fit for the Royal experience. This event was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in a marquee at the Royal Swazi Sun Hotel. This was an event for the official crowning of the winners in both the football and cultural categories. It was the first time that His Majesty King Mswati III attends a prize presentation ceremony for a football competition that involved only local clubs. This showed the support and commitment by His Majesty and His Government's support to football in the country. It is for this reason that, the football family is always indebted to His Majesty and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland for the support towards the chief sport in the country.

In this event, the individual prizes were awarded to the deserving candidates. The player of the tournament was Mbabane Swallows midfielder, Kapamba Tshitshimbi who went home E10, 000.00 richer. The best goalkeeper of the tournament was Nhlanhla Gwebu from Young Buffaloes who went home E10, 000.00 richer. The top goal scorer was Mfanfikile Ndzimandze who went home E10, 000.00 richer. The best PRO prize went to Sibusiso Manana from Mbabane Swallows, who went home E6, 000.00 richer. There were also individual prizes from the media which went to the Times of Swaziland employees. These prizes included the best reporter, photographer and editor. Lwazi Dlamini was the best editor and he went home E6, 000.00 richer. Ashmond Nzima was the best reporter and he went home 5, 000.00 richer and Ntokozo Magongo was the best photographer of the tournament and he went home E4, 000.00 richer. The best print media was the Times of Swaziland which got E10, 000.00. The best electric media

was the SBIS and Swazi TV. Both of them got E5, 000.00. All these winners had a lifetime opportunity of receiving their prizes from His Majesty King Mswati III.



**GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**



Grassroots Football Development Programme is a development programme of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) targeted to children between the ages of 6-12 years old. This football development programme acts as an orientation to children in as far as the game of football is concerned. Besides the development of football skills, other skills like the social skills are being developed.

This programme is done on a yearly basis. For the first time this year, it commenced with a symposium which was held at Sibane Hotel in Ezulwini. This event was held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The NFAS invited its stakeholders to this event and over 120 of them attended.

These stakeholders included the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), United Nations Agencies, Schools and Municipalities, just to mention a few. The main purpose of this symposium was to sensitize the participants about the importance of this football development programme and the role that each stakeholder can play in as far as it is concerned (partnership). This event was officially opened by the President of the NFAS, Mr Adam Mthethwa.

Presentations were made by the NFAS's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Frederick

Mngomezulu, the Technical Director of the NFAS, Mr Bhekisisa Mkhonta and the Marketing and Communications Manager of the NFAS, Mr Muzi Radebe. The participants were also given opportunities to make their comments or ask questions where they needed some clarity.

After this symposium, 4 grassroots football development programmes have been hosted by the NFAS. These events were held at Sydney Williams Primary Schools, Manzini Club (for Kwaluseni Primary School), Ezulwini Catholic Primary School and Hlatikulu Show Ground (Christ The King Primary School). Over 2000 children participated in these events which show the demand for resources in as far as this football development programme is concerned. The NFAS is still encouraging its stakeholders to come on board or partner with it in shaping the future of Swaziland through football.



WHAT'S ON THE NEXT EDITION ?

- We focus on the National Team's (Sihlangu SeMnikati) training session.
- Have a quick look at Mbabane Swallows FC TOTAL CAF Confederations Cup Opponents in the group stages.
- Preview on the Schools Futsal Competition.