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EFA APPEALS TO HER  
MEMBERS TO HANDLE THE  
COVID-19 SITUATION WITH  
CARE



## EFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS SHARE OVER E2.2 MILLION

- The 4 Regional Football Associations share E1.2M.
- PLE gets E700, 000.00.
- WFA, ECA and ERA gets 125, 000.00 each.

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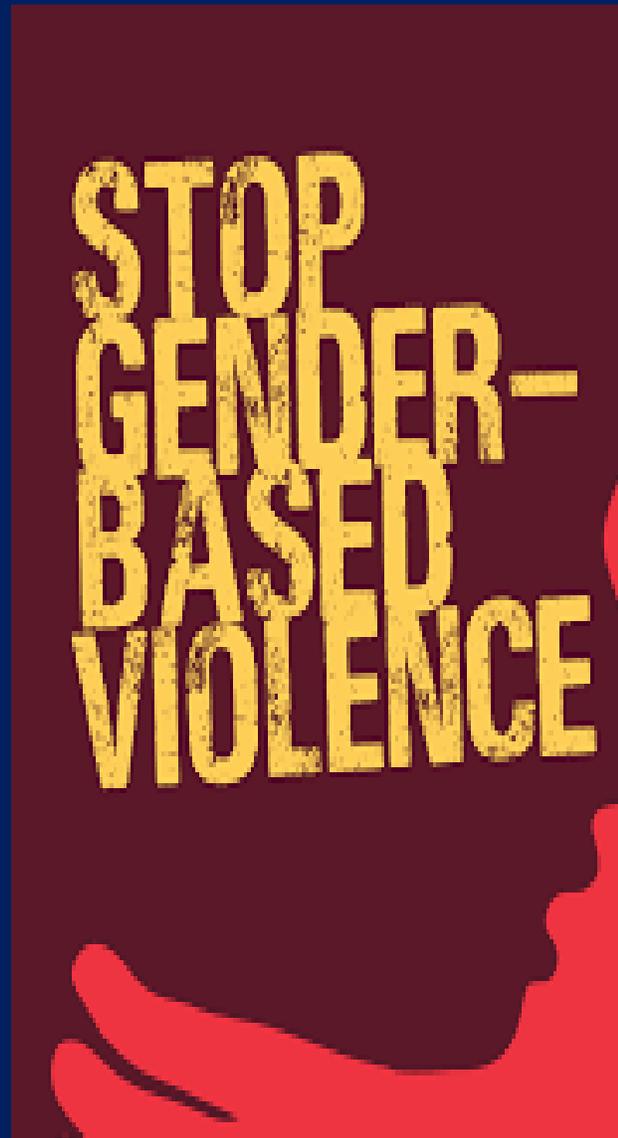
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## EFA UNVEILS A STRATEGY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS



Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu-EFA's GS

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has come up with a strategy for the resumption of football competitions. This strategy has already been presented to Government through the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs and the football association is currently waiting for a feedback. The Secretary General (GS) of the EFA, Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu highlighted that this strategy is categorised into four (4) phases. "The football association has developed a 4-phased strategy comprising of the biological, preparation, pre-competition and competition phases", Mngomezulu said.

The biological phase is a pre-preparation period where the major activities will revolve around the preparation of football clubs, matches, match venues and appropriate legislations for the resumption of football competitions and the larger business. "This will be the most critical stages where there will be testing of football players,

officials, and match officials to establish the COVID-19 status including the preparation of match venues and appropriate regulations", Mngomezulu stated. If the health condition in terms of the COVID-19 status quo improves, an adjustment to this phase can be made in such a way that it is reduced to two weeks instead of three.

The preparation phase involves the resumption of training of football clubs, which has also been divided to individual training sub phases to take one week, and group training sub-phases to take 2 weeks. "This phase will take a total of 3 weeks, when taking into the account the one week individual training and 2 weeks group training", Mngomezulu said. If the COVID-19 status quo improves, this phase will be increased to 2 weeks instead of one week.

The pre-competition phase will be the period when the whole teams will train including the playing of practice matches. This will be a 1 week phase. Finally, the competition phase will be basically the implementation of the competitions. "This phase will take 8-10 weeks depending on the concluding rounds of competitions, some which may need to be played concurrently hence requiring an extended time", the GS concluded.

This whole strategy is estimated to take 14 weeks, a period which could be extended to 16 weeks, in the event the competition phase is extended by 2 weeks. This strategy will be implemented after the approval of Government.

"The football association has developed a 4-phased strategy comprising of the biological, preparation, pre-competition and competition phases"-Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu, EFA General Secretary.

**As RESPONSIBLE players, we always play the game in accordance to the laws of the game;**

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- 1 Wash your hands with running water and soap or use alcohol-based sanitizer.
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## THE EFA APPEALS TO HER MEMBERS TO HANDLE THE COVID-19 SITUATION WITH CARE



EFA President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa

The Eswatini Football Association has appealed to her members to handle the COVID-19 pandemic situation in as far as football is concerned with care. This is after a lot have been said over the media and other platforms by some member associations which of course tarnish the image of the EFA. "There have been a lot of reactions since the EFA suspended football matches in the country", said the EFA President, Mr. Adam Mthethwa.

It is a fact that after this decision by the EFA Executive Committee was implemented, there were numerous reactions from some stakeholders of the EFA. The EFA President clarified that when the EFA took his decision, she accommodated all her stakeholders. "The EFA accommodated all her stakeholders when taking this decision", Mthethwa said. The President also highlighted that, the member associations are free to advise the football association in a responsible manner however; it is only the EFA that has the authority to implement such decisions on the land. "It is only the EFA that can take such decisions and member associations can only advise on such in a responsible manner", Mthethwa said. He also stated that this decision was a fair one under the current situation.

When quizzed about the possibility of cancelling the current football season, the EFA President stated that consultations will need to be made as there are a lot of issues that may need to be addressed which won't be easy to do so. "Cancellation of the current football season is not the only opinion and if that is the case, further consultations will be needed as a lot of issues must be addressed", Mthethwa said. This implies that football matches will resume after the EFA gets advice from government to do so.

As for the FIFA Relief Fund which is a topical issue to some EFA stakeholders, the President requested that this subject must be left to the football association as it communicates directly with FIFA on this matter. In conclusion, he appealed to the EFA members to handle the COVID-19 pandemic situation in a responsible manner.

### Let's protect the EFA Brand-EFA President

As an instrument of handling the COVID-19 situation with care, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President has appealed to the member associations to protect the brand of the football association. This is after a lot have been said regarding the challenging situation in football due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is a fact that after the EFA suspended football matches in the country, some stakeholders had a mouthful to say about the whole situation of which some of the statements are not portraying a good image to the EFA and the sport as a product.

"The EFA accommodated all stakeholders when implementing this decision, thus it expects all stakeholders to handle this situation in a responsible manner in order to protect the EFA brand and that of the sport" Mthethwa said.

## EFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS SHARE OVER E2.2 MILLION

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect every sector of the economy including the football business. This has adversely affected all stakeholders of football including the member associations of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA). As a way of mitigating the financial effects of this pandemic, the EFA allocated a total sum of

E2, 275, 000.00 (Two Million Two Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Emalangeneni), to its

member associations. This was disclosed by the General Secretary (GS) who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the EFA Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu. "The Executive Committee as has earlier asserted, whilst waiting for the mooted FIFA's COVID-19 Relief Fund, having analysed its

financial capacities in careful consideration of its continuance to assure the survival of the association and inherent pertinent football business prosperity, decided to allocate an amount equivalent to E2, 275, 000.00, to its member associations to mitigate the effects of the COVID- 19 threat", said Mngomezulu.

The member associations are the Hhohho Regional Football Association, Lubombo Regional Football Association, Manzini Regional Football Association, Shiselweni Regional Football Association, Premier League of Eswatini, Women Football Association, Eswatini Coaches Association and Eswatini Referees Association.

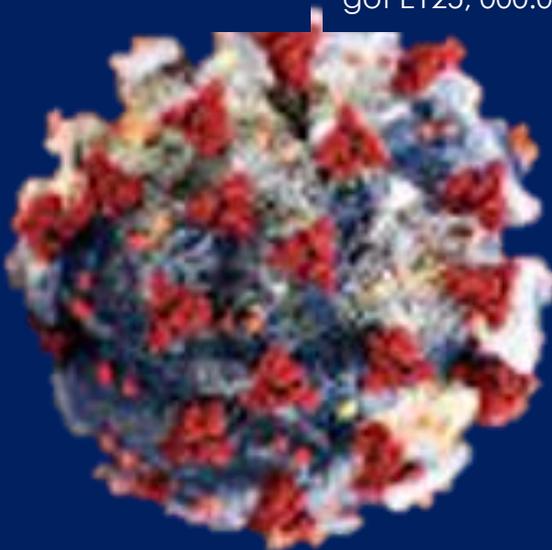
Each Regional Football Associations got E300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Emalangeneni), Premier League of Eswatini got E700,000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Emalangeneni), Women Football Association, Eswatini Coaches Association and Eswatini Referees Association each got E125, 000.00 (One Hundred and

Twenty-Five Thousand Emalangeneni). The details of the utilization and accountability of these funds will be communicated to the member associations.

"Details on the utilization and accountability of the allocated funds will be advanced to respective members", Mngomezulu said.

The General Secretary also highlighted that the football association have not yet receive the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Fund.

"The definite relief fund, for which the subject of the relief fund was borne, has not yet been determined by Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), as FIFA task teams are currently, finalizing the impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic across the two hundred and eleven (211) Member Associations of FIFA and their germane financial governance institutional processes.



## LUBOMBO REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Luke 11:41 says “Be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you”. This is what the Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA) demonstrated when they lead their members in the implementation of their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme. As the country and the globe fight the invisible enemy (COVID-19) which has put football on ice, the LRFA and her members/clubs competing under the Royal Eswatini Sugar (RES) Corporation Siyakha 1 800 Football Development Programme engaged themselves in community projects that are aimed at uplifting the lives of the society.

“The RES Corporation together with the LRFA Executive Committee Members and the football teams went to Nyambo where they planted vegetable seedlings at Nyambo Care Point which is a home for close to 200 children and latter proceeded to Mafucula for the similar exercise”, said Mr. Sicelo Nene who is the General Secretary of the LRFA.



The LRFA Executive Committee Members during the 2019 Ordinary General Assemblé

As the country and the globe are still fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, it was ensured that the participants of this CSI initiative practiced the safety precautions as per the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). Over and above these health precautions, there were less than 20 people who participated as per Government's regulation of not having more than 20 people in a gathering.

### LRFA CHAIRMAN ACKNOWLEDGES RES CORPORATION AND FOOTBALL TEAMS

The Lubombo Regional Football Association's (LRFA's) Chairman, Mr. Nicodimus 'Ace' Mashwama has acknowledged the Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation (RES Corporation) for the socio-economic development that the organization is doing to the country more especially through football. This giant sugar

producing company is the proud sponsor of the RES Corporation Siyakha 1 800 Football Development Programme. “I would like to thank RES Corporation for her formidable role towards the socio-economic development of the country more especially through football”, said Mashwama.

The Chairman also acknowledged the members/football teams under the LRFA for being part of this CSI programme and also for their efforts in making the sponsor happy.



## THE 5 GOOD THINGS THAT COMES WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTES



EFA's Technical Director, Mr. Bhekisisa 'Bizzah' Mkhonta.

The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) announced an emergency, temporary change to the substitution rule, allowing teams to implement 5 replacements per match instead of the regular 3. The change was a quick reaction to expected fixture congestion after football competitions came to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Technical Director (TD) of the EFA highlighted on 5 good things that comes with this change.

### 1. Work load

The resumption of football will come with a tight or condensed schedule yet the fitness levels of players are low or suspicious. This will pose some challenges to the players such as sudden increase of the work load per player. So the 5 substitutes will play a vital role in reducing the workload because coaches will have the luxury of rotating the players depending on the importance of the game.

### 2. Injuries

The work load will lead to rapid accumulation of fatigue whose consequences are injuries because fatigued players are prone to injuries. The 5 substitutes will enable the coaches to retain balances and rhythm of their teams because the base has

been increased thus more players will have the opportunity to play per match.

### 3. Tactics

The 5 substitutes will enable the coaches to manage their tactics both in defence and attack. Introducing 5 defensive minded players especially in the second half with a sole purpose of protecting a lead will certainly bring stability and solid defending in that particular team. Introducing 5 offensive minded players especially in the last half of the game when in possession, the team will have more options and some sense of fluidity in front of goals.

### 4. Speed and tempo of the game

The introduction of ten fresh players especially in the last half of the game will definitely increase the speed and tempo of the game. We are looking forward to some spectacle and tactical complexities towards the end of each game.

### 5. Talent identification

Coaches will have an opportunity to unearth new talent out of the increased number of substitutes. This implies that that more players will get game time to display their football artistry.

## FOCUS ON WOMEN FOOTBALL

The Marketing and Communications Manager of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Mr. Muzi Radebe (MR) had a one-on-one with the Chairman of the Women Football Association (WFA) Mr. Sonnyboy Mabuza (SM) about women's football in the country.



WFA Chairman, Mr. Sonnyboy Mabuza

MR: Good Afternoon Chairman, how are you doing during this difficult time where the globe is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

SM: Good afternoon Muzi. So far I am well and as for the COVID-19 pandemic, its bad news as you say, the whole world is affected by this pandemic including Eswatini. In terms of football we are feeling the pinch as the industry is heavily affected. As WFA we urge our members and the public to soldier on in the fight against this pandemic by adhering to the health precautions as outlined by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

MR: Chairman, when was the WFA formed?

SM: It was formed in 1987.

MR: What is the mandate of the WFA?

SM: It is to regulate, develop and promote women football in the country under the auspices of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA).

MR: So far, what are the successes of the WFA?

SM: The WFA has a constitution that guides the association and it is in conformity with the EFA constitution and the international governing bodies. The membership of the association is also increasing as currently we have 12 members which give us a total of 376 registered players. This provides a better pool of players that can be selected by the women national team players. Over and above this, the

future of women's football is bright more so because there is an increase of young players who are playing the sport and the EFA must be given credit as most of them come from the development programme of the football association which includes the junior national teams. Most of the teams end up recruiting those players as they come with the international exposure that they get from the international junior competitions like the COSAFA junior competitions.

MR: What are the challenges faced by the WFA?

SM: The lack of sponsorships is still a major challenge as we find ourselves having limited resources to develop the Eswatini girl child in the sport. This has an adverse effect in as far as unearthing and nurturing of talent is concerned. The cultural barrier is another big challenge for us as football is still perceived to be a men's sport. This makes some of the girls not to play the sport at all thus we end up losing great players who may have played for the national teams and possible be successful in life through the sport.

MR: How does one becomes the Chairman of the WFA Executive Committee?

SM: He/she must have served for 4 years in the member association and another 4 years in the Executive Committee of the WFA.

MR: Thanks a lot for you time Sir.

SM: You are welcomed Muzi.