

# Namibia Today Sport

## NPL winner to take home N\$1m

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**It's official that the 2010/2011 MTC/Namibia Premier League (NPL) winner will pocket a whopping one million Namibian Dollar.**

The main NPL sponsors, namely Mobile Telecommunication (MTC) has announced this week that it has place more than N\$10 million on the table for the 2010/2011 premier league season. This is an emphatic 100% increase as compared to the three previous seasons that made a total of N\$16.4 million.

This breaking news was broadcast live on Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) when Tim Ekandjo, MTC Chief Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Officer made the announcement.

The exact sponsorship totals to N\$10 034 054. Ekandjo said that the NPL has presented a comprehensive budget to MTC and was approved in its totality, adding that MTC and NPL have signed a three years sponsorship.

This is indeed the biggest ever sponsorship for NPL in Namibia and



(L-R) Tim Ekandjo, MTC Chief Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Officer and Johnny Johnson Doeseb, Chairman of Namibia Premier League before the live broadcast at NBC on Tuesday evening.

need to be applauded.

This amount will also take account of the First and Second Divisions.

The Chairman of Namibia Premier League Johnny Johnson Doeseb cognomen JJD proclaimed that winners will take home N\$1 million to enable them

to participate in the CAF Championship League, come next year.

The runners up will pocket N\$300 000 while the third placed team will have to settle for N\$200 000. There some moans from the club representative and invited guest, but JJD cleared the almost poignant atmosphere abruptly.

Stating there is no other money to be paid to the fourth and fifth position team as was the case in previous seasons.

"We are encouraging competitiveness and quality football", however, he was hastened to say that all teams will receive a monthly grand of N\$31 500 per



FNB Orlando Pirates has the largest signing this season that will be under the tutelage of the Zimbabwean-born and seasoned coach, Gilbert Rwasoka. These are some of the new club members that have joined the Sea Robbers for the 2010/2011 season who were introduced at the launch of the Buccaneers replica shirt for their supporter in Windhoek.

## Mourinho criticizes pitch, Espanyol against referee after Real win

**MADRID,** — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho was unhappy with the state of the playing surface after watching his side defeat Espanyol 3-0 on Tuesday night.

Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring with a penalty before late goals from Gonzalo Higuain and Karim Benzema a scoreline that flattered the football Real Madrid produced during the 90 minutes of the game.

"The football was not good, but taking into account we were playing on a mudbath and with a tired team and against a rival that had nothing to lose, I am satisfied." Said Mourinho. The playing surface at the Santiago Bernabeu has been affected



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

by a fungal infection and parts of the pitch are either bare of grass

or lift up when they are stepped on.

The Real Madrid coach refused to judge the performance of referee Clos Gomez, who gave his side a penalty after Luis Garcia had handballed while in a defensive wall. The referee was correct in sending off Madrid defender Pepe, but showed two harsh red cards to the visiting side, sending off Forlin and Galan to leave them with just nine players.

"I like to speak about referees when they have done a great job and not today when they have not been good. I don't think Clos Gomez influenced the result," said Mourinho on Goltv.

Espanyol coach Mauricio Pochettino was also diplomatic about the referee, limiting himself to say "everyone has seen what happened", but club President Dani Sanchez Llibre did not hold back on his criticism.

month in the ten month running of the league. This is an increase of five percent from the previous season.

When asked about security and the curbing of hooliganism, JJD vigorously but it straight to the point that the beautiful game of football is a family game and need to be enjoyed by all young and old without fear of intimidation or harassment. "Security will be strict and tight, there is no compromise

on that".

Said JJD: "This season will be very much exciting adding that at least 60 matches will be screened live. He also called on supporters of all clubs to come in big numbers to cheer on their respective teams.

The entrance fee has increased to N\$30 per person.

The first game will see FNB Orlando Pirates engaging Civics FC tonight at Sam Nujoma Stadium slated for 20h00.

## Namibia coach in Zimbabwe job row

By Steve Vickers

**Harare:** The proposed appointment of Belgian Tom Saintfiet as national coach has caused a huge storm in Zimbabwe.

The media and vast majority of fans would like the acting coach Norman Mapeza to be given the job on a permanent basis. For their part, Zimbabwe Football Association (Zifa) officials are hopelessly divided over the matter.

A press conference to unveil Saintfiet as the new Warriors boss was abruptly cancelled last Saturday. Saintfiet, who is midway through a four-year contract with the Namibia national team, is currently in Harare.

But on Wednesday Zifa chief executive Jonathan Mashingaidze told BBC Sport: "There's still no news, there won't be an announcement today." A Zifa technical committee recommended that Saintfiet be employed although Zimbabwe would have to buy out his contract with the Namibia FA.

But against a background of severe financial problems, Zifa



Tom Saintfiet in Zimbabwe in search of greener pasture while his four year contract with the Brave Warriors as its mentor will only end in 2010

chairman Cuthbert Dube took a different line. He stated categorically that Zimbabwe would not replace former Warriors captain Mapeza with the Belgian coach. Mapeza earned the respect of Warriors fans by getting Zimbabwe off to a good start in the qualifiers for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations, with a 1-1 draw away to Liberia.

Saintfiet's arrival has re-ignited the argument over the merits of a foreign coach, especially as Zimbabwe's two appearances at the Nations Cup finals have come under the guidance of local coaches.

## New NPL logo



The new NPL logo represents a bright move towards a new direction with the goldish yellow color representing the Namibian dunes, the oryx as a national animal represent that NPL is truly Namibian inside a yellow edge of the Namibian sun, with the twelve stars represent the 12 members of the NPL,

"The motto has changed indicating that we have been search for football excellence, we have found it and from now on we will be pursuing football excellence", Mathew T HAIKALI, Chief Executive Officer of Namibia Premier League

"Clos Gomez was very bad, the worst I have seen on a football pitch. I don't understand how a referee can be so bad at this level. He should be refereeing in the local leagues where there is no prob-

lem is you get things wrong." "If those kind of decisions go against us nobody says anything, but its front page news when they go against one of the big sides," he fumed. (Xinhua)