



DURBAN
AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2021





MESSAGE FROM COSAFA PRESIDENT

DR PHILLIP CHIYANGWA

We are thrilled to be hosting the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier this year, realising a long held dream of COSAFA to launch a women's club competition in the region.

The tournament will be a massive boost for the women's game in Southern Africa, providing an aspirational platform for clubs and players where they can showcase their talent outside of their own countries and potentially across on the continent too.

This is in line with the vision of Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Dr Patrice Motsepe, who has targeted the growth of women's football as a major focus of his tenure while leading the African game.

We have long shared that vision as COSAFA and the work we have done to help promote women's football, on and off the pitch, is evident for all to see in the introduction of Under-17 and Under-20 tournaments in recent years to go with our senior championship and now the Champions League.

We are delighted that this new competition will have a fixed home in Durban for the next three years and we thank the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, the eThekweni Municipality and the South African Football Association (SAFA) for their incredible support in this regard.

Partnerships such as these are vital for the staging of our competitions and without them we would not be able to have the extensive calendar of tournaments that we envisage for 2021 and beyond.

Following hot on the heels of this TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier will be the 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship, which will be staged for the fifth successive year.

That in itself is an achievement, especially given the challenges of the global pandemic and the fact that in the past it was held sporadically.

We have seven sides competing this year's Champions League, but I am quite sure that number will grow substantially in 2022 as the region comes to grips with the pandemic.

It is a reminder that we are still operating in extraordinary and difficult times, and as such we continue to host our competitions in the strictest of bio-secure environments.

And so a big word of thanks must go to all those who work so hard in the background to make these tournaments happen, as well as to SAFA for sharing their knowledge and expertise on hosting events in the era of COVID-19.

Lastly, I would like to wish all the competing teams the very best and whoever the victor is, I know they will represent the COSAFA region proudly at the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League later on this year.



MESSAGE FROM

HLENGIWE MAVIMBELA

MEC KZN DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

The year 2021 has been deemed the year of Charlotte Maxeke. Thus, being Women's Month it is important to bring women's matters to the fore, especially those which builds our communities and women as per the teachings of Mme Maxeke.

A pioneer Charlotte Maxeke is regarded as the woman of many firsts, she was the first African woman to obtain a degree from a University in the USA, and the first to obtain a degree in South Africa. It is therefore appropriate that whilst celebrating this phenomenal feat, we will also be celebrating another first in the inaugural CAF Women's Champions League Qualification tournament.

We as the Province of KwaZulu-Natal therefore are extremely excited that the first episode in the partnership sown between the Province, eThekweni Municipality and COSAFA is the COSAFA CAF Women's Champions League Qualifier. In upholding the legacy of Charlotte Maxeke we must ensure that the main beneficiaries of the COSAFA partnership are women and youth.

Through hosting the CAF Women's Champions League tournament, the Province of KwaZulu-Natal aims to promote Women's Football, and foster better relations amongst the neighbouring SADC communities, in contributing to one of the key priorities of government, the creation of A Better Africa and World. The hosting of the tournament will also come as a welcome boost to sport tourism in KwaZulu-Natal.

Partnership with Cosafa will lead to local communities being exposed to international football, leaving a legacy, educational and skills development programmes, as well as promoting and positioning KwaZulu-Natal as the ultimate sports tourism destination.

Even though we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we still look forward to the tournament being hosted in our beautiful province. We trust that when the safety regulations are relaxed we will enjoy the full benefits of hosting the tournament. We look forward to welcoming the teams, officials, and the football fraternity to eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal.



DR DANNY JORDAAN

SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The inaugural 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier that will take place in Durban will usher in a new era for women's football on the continent.

The Women's Champions League qualifiers will be played on zonal basis with the champions advancing to the finals in the Egyptian capital of Cairo later this year. The COSAFA countries participating are hosts South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

This is a huge statement in the advancement of women football on the continent and resonates with new CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe's agenda to grow football across the board on the continent.

Apart from huge cash incentives, the overall champions will be in a position to participate in the proposed FIFA Women's Club Championship, a first for women's football on the continent.

I welcome all participants to this historic tournament and request that all clubs must compete within the spirit of the sport.

African football is on the rise and footballers must seize this opportunity to make a name for their country and themselves.

Good luck to all participants and may the best team win.



MESSAGE FROM

CLLR MXOLISI KAUNDA

ETHEKWINI MAYOR

As eThekweni Municipality we are excited to be the first Southern African city to host the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier.

Hosting this qualifier will not only demonstrate our proven track record of hosting international events but will also show our commitment to the development of women's football.

It is fitting that we will host this qualifier match during Women's Month. This is also the year of Charlotte Maxeke who fought tirelessly for gender equality and the emancipation of women. I am confident that the struggle stalwart would be happy to see women's football being elevated to the level of their counterparts.

The City is also hosting this tournament following the recent civil unrest that did not only have a devastating impact on the economy but also exposed simmering racial intolerance in society. The Municipality aims to use this tournament to drive social cohesion as a catalyst to achieve a socially cohesive City and to promote tolerance and racial acceptance.

With the games being televised across the world, this will provide an ideal opportunity to promote the City and to show that we are open for investment. Following the recent unrest, we are working with stakeholders to rebuild the City to retain and attract new investment. We are working hard to ensure that we remain the gateway to Africa by creating a conducive and thriving environment for investors. We are ready to roll out the red carpet for visiting teams in true Durban style.



HOW TO FOLLOW THE ACTION!

There are a number of ways to keep up with the action in the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier!

❖ Go to our **website**:

www.cosafa.com

❖ Follow us on **Twitter**:

@COSAFAMEDIA

❖ Like our **Facebook** page:

www.facebook.com/COSAFAMEDIA/

❖ Find us on **Instagram**:

www.instagram.com/cosafafootball/

❖ Check us out on **TikTok**:

@cosafamedia

❖ Head to **COSAFA TV**:

www.cosafa.tv

PROVIDING A PATHWAY TO CONTINENTAL GLORY



The TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier provides the seven competing teams with not only the chance to claim bragging rights in the region, but also to represent their nation on the continental stage.

The tournament serves as the Southern African qualifier for the inaugural continental Champions League that will be staged in Cairo, Egypt later this year.

It is a massive step forward for women's football, not just in the region, but also Africa as a whole, and ushers in a new era for the game that can only go from strength-to-strength.

The winner of the COSAFA competition will go forward to compete against the best from the rest of the continent, and that is an exciting prospect for players and coaches alike, not least because it will raise the standard of clubs across the region.

"With the COSAFA and CAF Women's Champions Leagues coming on board, I believe we will have the chance to compete with the European countries in the future," says Jerry Tshabalala, coach of Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies.

"How will the CAF tournament help us? Because of the increased level of competition among the players, one would know that after winning my local league, the chances are there for me to go and compete against the other African countries.

"It would mean a lot for us to qualify. This is something that I always repeat in my interviews. If you recall when our previous president, Dr Patrice Motsepe, took over at Mamelodi Sundowns he said he wants the club to dominate African football.

"He wasn't just speaking about the men's side. He knew that something like this women's Champions League would come, so now is our chance as Sundowns to go out

there and fulfil our former president's vision."

Tshabalala believes that teams should also be looking to play beyond the continent too, and hopes FIFA's plans for a Women's Club World Cup come to fruition soon.

"Why not also have a FIFA Club World Cup? That is something I am hoping will come in the near future. I hope the ladies will be more motivated to say, let's do our best so we can compete with the best in the world."

The coach of Lesotho Defence Force, former senior men's international Lengana Nkhethoa, echoes those thoughts.

"It's a big opportunity, we don't have that many players in our country that are playing abroad, so it will be a big opportunity for them to give themselves exposure to play for teams outside Lesotho," he says.

"That experience will give our national team the opportunity to improve also. It can make all our young players better. It is huge for women's football."

Lydiana Nanamus, vice-captain of Namibian side TURA Magic, says the players will be motivated in their domestic competition knowing they have a chance to compete in a regional, and then continental, Champions League.

"We now have something more to play for, not only to win the league in our country, but also to qualify for the Champions League. It is a great thing for the whole African continent," she said.

Dr Motsepe, who was elevated to Confederation of African Football President last year, has made growing the game on the continent a key feature of his tenure.

"We want women's football to be significantly growing and progressing in the period of my presidency," he said.

"What excites me is what we can potentially do. We have 280-million young Africans on this continent between the ages of 15 to 24. Football has a unique role to play in providing opportunities to these youth."

THE IMPORTANCE OF ZONAL QUALIFIERS FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League ushers in a new era for women's football on the continent and will help the game to grow in the coming years, says Confederation of African Football (CAF) fifth vice-president Kanizat Ibrahim.

Ibrahim, who is President of the Women's Football Organising Committee at CAF, says the COSAFA zonal qualifier for the prestigious event that gets under way in Durban from August 26-September 4, is an important step forward for the game.

"One of the priorities of CAF's women's football strategy is to increase the number of competitions for women and girls. The need for this is essential for the growth of women's football on the continent and to take it forward," Comorian Ibrahim says.

"The more women play, the better they will perform. In the past we had only one continental women's competition with eight teams to represent teams from the 54 member associations.

"Today we have increased the Africa Women's Cup of Nations to 12 teams and at the same time we have introduced the first Club Champions League competition."

She says the Champions League will have a knock-on effect in domestic leagues, with CAF also introducing licensing requirements around coaches and venues, among other things.

"It will increase strength and competition in our local leagues and motivate member associations to re-enforce and create better structures for women's football.

"The creation of the TotalEnergies CAF

Women's Champions League sees the introduction of the first club licensing regulations for women's football and represents an excellent tool for the development of club football at a continental level."

She adds that the decision to have zonal qualifiers for the continental finals was based on financial constraints for some clubs and will allow many more teams to participate.

"The zonal tournaments are important for the development of women's football as they minimise travel costs for teams. These fees are sometimes so high that it discourages clubs from taking part.

"That is why CAF has decided to organise zonal qualification, as it will give teams a better chance to qualify for the final tournament by playing several matches against clubs from the same region."

Ibrahim says CAF are particularly grateful to the COSAFA region for leading the way in the development of women's football over the past five or so years.

"We must thank COSAFA in particular for its dedication to the development of women's football. COSAFA has continuously organised competitions and this has elevated women's football in the zone, which is very important."



"THE MORE WOMEN PLAY, THE BETTER THEY WILL PERFORM. IN THE PAST WE HAD ONLY ONE CONTINENTAL WOMEN'S COMPETITION WITH EIGHT TEAMS TO REPRESENT TEAMS FROM THE 54 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS."

TOTALENERGIES CAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE | COSAFA QUALIFIER

IN NUMBERS

The historic 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League | COSAFA Qualifier will open a new chapter for football in the Southern African region and continues COSAFA's commitment to the growth of the women's game.

The inaugural tournament will provide some of the best clubs in the region with the opportunity to be crowned champions of Southern Africa and test their skills on the continental stage in the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League. **Here is a look at some of the key numbers around the competition.**

1

This will be the first ever COSAFA Women's Champions League competition and also the first time COSAFA have staged a club tournament.

1

The winner of the competition will advance to the inaugural TOTALENERGIES CAF Women's Champions League that is set to be staged in Cairo, Egypt later in the year.

1

The 'number one' at Lesotho Defence Force, coach Lengana Nkhethoa, is a former defender with the men's senior national team. He was recently recruited from the LDF men's team to lead the ladies' side.

1

Botswana side Double Action Ladies have been out of action for over a year due to COVID-19 but assistant coach Mathogonolo Serumola says they will be ready for the COSAFA tournament.

2

The competition has been split into two groups, one with four teams and the other with three. The top two teams in each pool advance to the semifinals.

7

The number of teams that will be competing in the tournament – Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Lesotho Defence Force (Lesotho), Double Action Ladies (Botswana), Manzini Wanderers (Eswatini), Green Buffaloes (Zambia), Black Rhinos Queens (Zimbabwe) and TURA Magic (Namibia).

8

The TOTALENERGIES CAF Women's Champions League is set to have eight teams from across the continent, including one from the COSAFA region.

11

TURA Magic vice-captain Lydiana Amamus started playing football at the age of 11, a perfect example of why girls should be introduced to the game as early as possible.

14

COSAFA General Secretary Sue Destombes says she hopes all 14 member nations will send teams to compete in the 2022 edition of the competition, once the COVID-19 situation in the region has settled.

26

The tournament will get under way on August 26, with the final to be staged on September 4.

2014

Zambian side Green Buffaloes have won their provincial competition every season since 2014, bar last year which was disrupted by COVID-19. The Football Association of Zambia have now introduced a national league for 2021.



THE TEAMS

ALL THE COMPETING
TEAMS AT THE
**TOTAL ENERGIES CAF
WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE | COSAFA
QUALIFIER**



BLACK RHINOS QUEENS

BASED: HARARE, ZIMBABWE



GROUP B OPPONENTS:

27/08	Green Buffaloes (Zambia)	14h00
29/08	TURA Magic (Namibia)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

The army team has long been a force in women's football in the country and won the last league championship that was staged in 2019.

They have a number of national team players in their ranks, including lethal forward Rutendo Makore, who is no stranger to COSAFA competitions at international level with Zimbabwe. The team is coached by Kuda Matuwi, who has worked extensively in youth set-ups in the country and has a keen eye for talent.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"It is an exciting draw, and we are looking forward to it. Three teams will not be easy, we don't know each other, save for Zambia that has been in the Olympics recently. We have seen some of their good players.

"We just have to remain focused, and not look too much at the opponents, and just do our own things right and take it from there.

"It (women's football in Zimbabwe) is coming up, unfortunately due to the pandemic it has come to a halt. But it is really improving, we saw that when our women's team qualified for the last Olympics in Rio de Janeiro [in 2016]. "We last played in 2019, but we have been training in batches here and there.

This year we have not trained due to the restrictions, but we have given our players individual training, and our fitness trainer and coaches have been monitoring the players and visiting them individually."

– assistant coach **Malven Moyo**



DOUBLE ACTION LADIES

BASED: GABORONE, BOTSWANA



GROUP A OPPONENTS:

26/08	Manzini Wanderers (Eswatini)	11h00
28/08	Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)	14h00
30/08	Lesotho Defence Force	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

Double Action Ladies take their place in the tournament having replaced Prisons XI, who turned down the invitation to take part, citing logistical issues. The team will be led by experienced head coach Oupa Kowa, who replaces Philemon Makhwengwe after the latter moved to men's Premiership side Orapa United. The club has a number of national team players, who excelled at the last COSAFA Women's Championship in 2020 when The Mares reached the final but narrowly lost to South Africa.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"Obviously everybody wishes to be on the other side [Group B] with three teams, but the draw has put us in the four-team group.

"Sundowns is a big team and we respect them, but we will also show them what Double Action is about and go all the way in terms of giving them a good fight. We have to go to Egypt, with the four teams [in the group], we have to target the semifinals, and then the rest will follow.

"Women's football is growing in Botswana, but we have not been back playing for long. That is the challenge we are having, we are trying to prepare the girls for a return to play, which is not easy, but come competition day we will be ready.

"It is not an excuse, because at the end of the day we have to be here, and we have to be ready.

– assistant coach Tony Serumola



GREEN BUFFALOES

BASED: LUSAKA, ZAMBIA



GROUP A OPPONENTS:

27/08	Black Rhinos Queens (Zimbabwe)	11h00
31/08	TURA Magic (Namibia)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

Green Buffaloes are an army-sponsored team based in the Zambian capital who will be among the favourites for the Champions League competition.

The club have some recognizable names, such as defenders Lushomo Mweemba, Martha Tembo and Anita Mulenga, and midfielders Ireen Lungu and Agness Musase, who were all part of the Zambia side that performed so well at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

They are led by head coach Charles Haalubono and have great experience in their side, and players who will have an eye on Cairo.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"We are definitely going to Cairo! We want to be the first ones to represent Zambia at the CAF Women's Champions League. The draw is good, but the challenge is there. Because the greatest challenge is having to face a team you have not met before. We don't know what they are coming up with.

"In this competition, every team is strong in its own way because the first games against a new team are always scary. We will put in maximum effort and try our best to get out of the group. We have our homework to do, we know a few of the players.

"The Olympics brought a lot of confidence in the team. We believe in them (the players) because of the wonderful performance they put up. Systems are different from the club and the national team, so they have to blend in again with our system.

"Women's football in Zambia is really improving. Just recently they have introduced the national women's league, which has brought in a lot of competition. It is of the highest level and a lot of teams are getting the best out of it."

– assistant coach Carol Kanyemba



LESOTHO DEFENCE FORCE

BASED: MASERU, LESOTHO



GROUP B OPPONENTS:

26/08	Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)	14h00
28/08	Manzini Wanderers (Eswatini)	11h00
30/08	Double Action Ladies (Botswana)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

Army side Lesotho Defence Force are led by head coach Lengana Nkhethoa, who is a former men's national team defender.

They packed with international players and have been the best side in the country over the last while, hoping to now turn that into international success.

LDF won the Lesotho Women's Super League for the third year in a row in 2020 and were founded by former national team player Baholo Motene, who last year was elected president of the Lesotho Women's Football Executive Committee.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"It's a very tough group. Everybody expects to go through to the next round, so we have to be prepared to do that. We don't know each other, so it will be very difficult.

"But I believe in my team and their capabilities. So we will work very hard to go through.

"It's a big opportunity, we don't have that many players in our country that are playing abroad, so it will be a big opportunity for them to give themselves exposure to play for teams outside Lesotho.

"That experience will give our national team the opportunity to improve also. It can make all our young players better. It is huge for women's football."

– head coach **Lengana Nkhethoa**



MAMELODI SUNDOWNS

BASED: PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA



GROUP B OPPONENTS:

26/08	Lesotho Defence Force	14h00
28/08	Double Action Ladies (Botswana)	14h00
30/08	Manzini Wanderers (Eswatini)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

The Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies side are hoping to ultimately emulate the men's team that won the CAF Champions League in 2016 and they certainly have quality all through their ranks. The team won the inaugural SAFA National Women's League in 2020 to book their place at the TotalEnergies CAF Women's

Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier. They are led by head coach Jerry Tshabalala and make use of the same Chloorkop facilities as the men's team, allowing them to maximise preparations for the competition.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"The draw is exciting, with four teams in the group it gives you the chance to play three games, so when it comes to match fitness, it gives you a better idea of what to expect (in the next round) if you win your group.

"It (the Champions League competition) is long overdue, and I believe will play a huge role in raising the level of women's football, not just in the Southern African region, but the entire continent. With the COSAFA and CAF Women's Champions Leagues coming on board, I believe we will have the chance to compete with the European countries in the future.

"How will the CAF tournament help us? Because of the increased level of competition among the players, one would know that after winning my local league, the chances are there for me to go and compete against the other African countries. It would mean a lot for us to qualify.

– head coach **Jerry Tshabalala**



MANZINI WANDERERS

BASED: MANZINI, ESWATINI



GROUP A OPPONENTS:

26/08	Double Action Ladies (Botswana)	11h00
28/08	Lesotho Defence Force	11h00
30/08	Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

Manzini Wanderers are hoping to make a splash at the tournament and showcase the quality of the local league.

Head coach Bongani Makhukhula will lead the side and they have the likes of defenders Welile Ndwandwe and Thandeka Mbatha, and forward Zwane have all played recently for the national team.

They have long been the most successful Ladies team in Eswatini, and the club as a whole is one of the oldest in Eswatini and is steeped in tradition.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"It's a very tough group, but we will work hard to be part of the top two. Working hard is the only thing that can help us, and to do things as a team.

"The standard [of women's football in Eswatini] is low, since we don't have sponsors. We run the team out of our own pockets, so it is very hard for us. But it will help us for recognition."

– captain Gcinile Zwane



TURA MAGIC

BASED: WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA



GROUP A OPPONENTS:

29/08	Black Rhinos Queens (Zimbabwe)	14h00
31/08	Green Buffaloes (Zambia)	14h00

QUICK GUIDE:

Tura Magic have confirmed the club will be led by former Namibia Football Association Technical Director Timo Tjongarero, who is no stranger to regional competitions having steered the country's men's side to victory at the 2016 COSAFA Under-17 Championship that was staged in Mauritius.

He will hope to do likewise with Magic and will be assisted by the former coach of the team, Shama Gure. The change in tacticians is required as CAF have set minimum requirements for the licenses of the head coaches at the tournament. The team are current champions and in March walked away with the Namibia Football Association (NFA) Women's Super Cup.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"It is not going to be easy; we are going to have to work hard. We do respect our opponents, but we also bring a lot to the table. We will give them a run for their money.

"We have great quality and a great passion for the game, so I think we are good to go. We have not seen our opponents play, but we must just bring our own strengths into the games.

"We now have something more to play for, not only to win the league in our country, but also to qualify for the Champions League. It is a great thing for the whole African continent."

– vice-captain Lydiana Nanamus

FIXTURES



GROUP STAGES

DATE	KO TIME	GROUP	FIXTURE
26/08	11h00	A	Double Action Ladies vs Manzini Wanderers
26/08	14h00	A	Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies vs Lesotho Defence Force
27/08	14h00	B	Green Buffaloes vs Black Rhinos Queens
28/08	11h00	A	Lesotho Defence Force vs Manzini Wanderers
28/08	14h00	A	Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies vs Double Action Ladies
29/08	14h00	B	TURA Magic vs Black Rhinos Queens
30/08	14h00	A	Lesotho Defence Force vs Double Action Ladies
30/08	14h00	A	Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies vs Manzini Wanderers
31/08	14h00	B	Green Buffaloes vs TURA Magic

SEMIFINALS

02/09	11h00	Winner B vs Runner-Up A
02/09	14h00	Winner A vs Runner-Up B

FINAL

04/09	14h00	Winner Semi 1 vs Winner Semi 2
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