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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

INSIDE
LUCAS RADEBE: “OUR TIME HAS COME” • YOUNG STARS ON THE RISE
• STADIUMS READY FOR ACTION • WORLD CUP LEGENDS PRAISE SA

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP™
UPDATE MAGAZINE
MARCH/APRIL 2010
Dear friends,

On 2 March 2010 we mark 100 days to go. Our stadiums stand ready to welcome the world’s greatest football players and South Africans in Durban, Cape Town, Nelson Mandela Bay and Polokwane have already had a chance to experience their grandeur.

We now know where the teams will be based and where they will train during their stay in South Africa, and are confident that we will meet their expectations.

Fans from around the world are ensuring they will be here to celebrate with us and we are excited to see how many South Africans are eager to book their place in history. Nearly two thirds of the more than two million tickets that have been sold so far have been to local fans. This means that there is no doubt that the experience in the stadiums will be distinctly African.

At the Organising Committee we are putting final touches to our plans. But we are not the only ones. From the entrepreneurs who want to ensure that no fan is left wanting for a makarapa, to the musical talent who are planning to take full advantage of a global stage, and of course the dedication and commitment of the South African Police, the success of this tournament will be the making of thousands of South Africans.

Now with everything in place it is time for us to celebrate what we have achieved and to get ready to enjoy what promises to be a thrilling four weeks in June and July 2010.

Dr Irvin Khoza
Chairman, 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa

Dr Danny Jordaan
Chief Executive Officer, 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa
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EVERYTHING ON TRACK IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) tasked to oversee the South African government’s preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup has confirmed that all plans for the spectacle are running smoothly.

“The IMC is satisfied with the preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. All the bricks and mortar are in place,” said the chairman of the IMC, Kgalema Motlanthe after their meeting in February.

He said the committee was satisfied with the reports submitted to them. These included reports on the management and training of protocol officials who will be involved in the management of guests and Heads of States attending the tournament.

“Most significantly, the meeting welcomed the report that all stadiums have been completed on time. This means no spectator will sit on wet cement come June 11 kick off,” said Motlanthe.

A book entitled ‘My Country’ has also been published and will be distributed to communities and schools as part of an education drive to educate people about the country’s national symbols.

The IMC agreed that a mass education campaign is necessary to raise awareness among South Africans on their posture when the national anthem is sung. “Citizens as a sign of respect are expected to stand still at attention when the national anthem is sung.”

The monthly meeting also tasked the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to manage the handling of national flags and national anthems of all participating nations. This is in order to avoid confusion and to prevent the hoisting of wrong flags.

The IMC said the security cluster (which is made up of ministries that include the correctional services and defence) confirmed that the security plan for the FIFA World Cup is complete. All who will be attending the tournament will be safe. In the transport sector all upgrades at all major airports like OR Tambo, Cape Town and Mangaung have been completed.

The Committee said it noted reports that the OR Tambo Sandton section of the Gautrain rapid rail system will be ready before kick-off.

“This will be a significant development given the ease with which visitors will travel between the airport and various destinations in Johannesburg,” Motlanthe said.

When coming to electricity matters, the IMC said it was encouraging to see that six stadiums have been fitted with fibre optic broadcasting infrastructure while the remaining four stadiums fittings will be completed in March.

From legendary football players in their own right to young and aspiring sportspersons and women, the arrival of Diego Maradona on a whirlwind trip to South Africa in mid-January caused a wave of excitement among South Africans.

Take former South African football great, Mark Fish for example.

“When I met him I was lost for words, I literally had goose bumps all over. This really is a dream come true – his football ability was second to none,” said the former South African national player. “My friends and I often talk about who is the greatest football player. I now know I have met the greatest football player.”

The same sentiments were true for many stadiums before but this is very big and so great. To be able to enter this stadium (Soccer City). I have been to many stadiums but this is so beautiful. I feel inspired to play here but unfortunately my time has passed,” said Maradona.

Maradona was obviously happy with what he saw, feeling confident of Argentina’s chances in South Africa. “We are very confident (with the facilities), we don’t have anything to complain about. We hope to get as far as possible. We know we are not the favourites but we have a great desire. We want to break the curse after 24 years that we have not won the World Cup. The desire never goes away. The hope never goes away.”

On a brief visit to Soccer City, guided by Dr Danny Jordaan, Maradona delighted at the venue.

“They really did a great job on this stadium (Soccer City). I have been to many stadiums before but this is very big and so great. To be able to enter this stadium is so beautiful. I feel inspired to play here but unfortunately my time has passed,” said Maradona.
PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN SA REMAINS HIGH

Public opinion towards staging the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ remains overwhelmingly positive in the host nation South Africa, according to latest market research conducted on FIFA’s behalf. The findings from the fourth instalment of a six-wave survey suggest a strong emotional commitment to the tournament, in particular a pronounced sense of pride (90%) in being the first African nation to host football’s premier event.

Surveying was conducted by international research company SPORT+MARKT immediately after the Final Draw in December and the successful organisation of this event and the ensuing blanket coverage in the media appear to have reinforced respondents’ belief in South Africa’s readiness to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup (84%) and their keen anticipation of it (86%). Similar to the previous three waves, the vast majority of respondents have high expectations in terms of the potential long-term benefits of hosting the FIFA World Cup, both tangible and intangible: 79% believe it will unite the people of South Africa, 88% see a boost for South Africa’s image abroad, while 91% expect it to create more jobs and 95% think it will strengthen the tourism sector.

“What these findings tell us right from the first round of surveying in December 2008 all the way through to today is that there is a strong feeling of positivity towards the World Cup among South Africans,” said FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke. “The stores have been consistently high with negligible deviation over the months.”

Of the perceived potential disadvantages of hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup, inflation remains the biggest concern for South African respondents, with 73% believing consumer goods will become more expensive as a result. 70% believing consumer goods will become more expensive as a result of the competition. However, the 7% point drop in this score since the previous wave in September 2009 represents the biggest fluctuation recorded in this survey and is a welcome development.

ANTI-DOPING STRATEGY REVEALED

At a special workshop as part of the third International Football Medicine Conference in Sun City, South Africa, the team physicians of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ participants signed a joint declaration pledging their full support for FIFA’s anti-doping strategy, the implementation of the pre-competition medical assessment (PCMA) and “The 11+” warm-up programme to prevent injuries. Since 2006, the FIFA PCMA has been recommended as an effective means of detecting possible underlying cardiac diseases and thus avoiding tragedies such as the death of Marc-Vivien Foe during the FIFA Confederations Cup 2003.

FIFA will be conducting no-advance-notice out-of-competition doping tests (of both blood and urine samples) in training camps from 10 April to 10 June 2010, as well as stringent in-competition tests during the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ itself. The teams are required to submit their whereabouts to FIFA by 22 March 2010. “We take the fight against doping very seriously and are committed to continuing it in full compliance with the WADA Code,” explained Prof. Jiri Dvorak, FIFA’s Chief Medical Officer. This is borne out by the fact: more than 33 000 doping controls have been conducted in football over the years, resulting in only 0.03% positive cases.

OPERATIONS TESTED AT NEW DURBAN AIRPORT

The final countdown to the opening of the new Durban International Airport started on 14 January 2010 with the commencement of end-user trials at the facility, situated north of the city near La Mercy. The trials form part of a period of three and a half months during which facilities, systems, procedures, concepts and human resources will be tested in order to guarantee the operational readiness of the airport for the scheduled start of operations on 1 May 2010 – the day after all construction works will be terminated.

End-user trials are divided into different phases. Until the end of February 2010, the trials are run in parallel to the testing and commissioning of the general contractor Illembe and its subcontractors (Alcatel, SITA, Glidepath and Ultra). During that time, facilities and systems should prove their functionality and reliability, while end-users conduct and verify basic operational procedures and concepts in the new airport facility. By the end of February, the so-called advanced end-user trial phase will be kicked off. During that time, complexity increases steadily and special trials will be incorporated. Aircraft taxi simulation trials become part of each trial session, while one-time events such as a large scale trial with 600 fake passengers, a full terminal evacuation exercise, a night trial and an air crash simulation exercise shall prepare all stakeholders for a smooth and successful opening.

SNIPPETS...

14 January 2010 – The keys to the province of Limpopo’s newest sports arena, the Peter Mokaba Stadium, are symbolically handed over to the City of Polokwane’s mayor.

21 January 2010 – Durban Stadium becomes the second brand new 2010 FIFA World Cup venue to host a full international match as South Africa beat neighbours Zimbabwe, 3-0.

31 January 2010 – The 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola concludes with Egypt winning a third consecutive title following a 1-0 victory over Ghana.
“WE WILL BE THERE”

Fans from all over South Africa and the world have secured their 2010 FIFA World Cup™ tickets to be able to say, “I was there”.

When the final match of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ kicks off on 11 July this year, Johannesburg resident Casey Monteiro, will be one of the 89 000 spectators cheering their team on at Soccer City Stadium as the rest of the world watches on.

“I want to have a unique experience and be part of this first World Cup ever held in Africa,” said Monteiro, who cannot wait now that he has his tickets in his back pocket.

Monteiro, who purchased a ticket to follow Brazil on their campaign for World Cup glory, is one of the many South Africans who are snapping up the once in a lifetime opportunity to watch the first World Cup in Africa.

With the third phase of ticket sales now complete, which saw 1 206 865 applications from 192 countries, and the fourth now underway, two million of the three million available tickets have already been sold.

Having already fallen in love with his city’s new World Cup stadium, Durban resident, Amith Gosai cannot wait for the tournament to begin as he talks about the tickets he has secured all over the country.

“So far I have secured tickets for three games, one in each of the main host cities. It is an incredible feeling. I have watched all of the World Cups and was overjoyed when South Africa got the vote to host the event,” said Gosai who will be attending the Brazil vs Portugal match in Durban on 25 June as well as Côte d’Ivoire vs Brazil at Soccer City in Johannesburg and England vs Algeria in Cape Town.

With his tickets booked for both the quarterfinal and the semifinal at Cape Town Stadium in Cape Town, Kobus Botha doesn’t consider himself the biggest fan of the ‘beautiful game’ but he could not resist the opportunity to be part of South Africa’s World Cup.

“I knew that it would be a spectacular event and I didn’t want to miss it – even though I am not a huge soccer fan. I don’t think the reality of it has sunk in properly yet, but I am really amped and excited. I don’t know what to expect which is great,” said Botha.

Excited fans from all over South Africa and the world have booked their seats in history’s biggest stadium.

Excited to see Brazil and Côte d’Ivoire battle it out in Soccer City Stadium, Marlene Reddy is happy with her selection.

“I am happy that I get to watch an African country. I am very excited, I cannot wait to see Soccer City,” she said.

Further afield, Canadian George Filipovic is looking forward to his trip to South Africa later in the year.

“The World Cup is the greatest festival on earth, and I’ve always wanted to experience Africa. I think this Cup will be extra special, since football is the number one sport on the continent, yet the tournament has never been there before,” said the Toronto resident who will be watching a total of six matches including a semifinal and the final.

Although the football may be the big draw card for Filipovic, he is also excited to explore the country during his one month trip. “I have been looking forward to the tournament and been planning for months. It will be the trip of a lifetime and after all is said and done I will have got to visit Nelspruit, Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg.”

Marlene Reddy and Amith Gosai are just two of millions of people who’ll be attending matches live.
FIRM BUT FRIENDLY

The South African Police Service (SAPS) is adopting a firm but friendly attitude as they prepare to ensure the security of fans and teams at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

“You can never be too prepared” is the well worn saying that epitomises the preparations of the South African Police Service (SAPS) ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Since the announcement of the tournament in South Africa, ‘security’ has been a buzz word in the international media, with speculation rife about whether the country can ensure a safe and secure tournament.

Spokesman for the SAPS, Vishnu Naidoo says the hard work that is being put in now will ensure a safe World Cup in South Africa this year.

“We are working tirelessly to ensure this is one of the best tournaments that FIFA has hosted. We want people to come and enjoy themselves, secure in the knowledge that we will do the policing,” said Naidoo. South Africa has successfully delivered close to 150 major sporting events, including the FIFA Confederations Cup and the Indian Premier League last year, with no major incidents. However, the 2010 FIFA World Cup is a far larger affair and in response to this, the SAPS has increased their capacity having now taken delivery of R665 million worth of new equipment. This includes six helicopters, ten mobile command vehicles, 100 high performance vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, body armour and water cannons.

Besides the investment in equipment, the SAPS have also recruited 55 000 new police officers over the last five years. This force will be complemented with an additional 41 000 officers who have gained invaluable experience in handling major sports tournaments. These security forces will be charged with border control, route security, city security, stadium security and crowd management during the tournament.

“We have managed to allocate more than the required capacity for the tournament,” said Naidoo. “So there is going to be high visibility of police officers during 2010. Visibility of police has proven to be the most effective strategy to combat crime.”

For the tournament South Africa has trained a number of highly specialised units that will focus on reacting to situations as they arise. The Public Order Police will manage crowd control and any threat of organised fighting or hooliganism. These 8 500 officers completed training with the French National Gendarmerie in November 2009. The Gendarmerie are experts in crowd management and gained substantial experience at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France. The Gendarmerie will also be sending a delegation of security forces for this year’s tournament.

Another highly trained unit, the Tactical Response Team, has been developed to deal with more serious complaints. “The goal was to have these teams in all the major cities, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, by the end of December, but we have already gone beyond this target,” says Naidoo.

The security forces for the 2010 FIFA World Cup have been involved in simulation exercises used to prepare officers for any eventuality, ranging from chemical, biological and radioactive attacks to hijackings, hostage situations and major disasters, both natural and unnatural.

In addition to South Africa’s increased security, Interpol has also pledged their commitment to support the country during the tournament. The international police organisation will be establishing an office in South Africa, offering support in movement control and the authenticating of passports. Interpol has also developed a Dangerous and Disruptive Persons (DDP) database for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. This database can be used to identify people who are involved in any form of organised crime or organised fighting. Once a person is recorded on this database they will not be allowed into South Africa.

“We have various proactive measures to stop identified criminals from entering our country. We are in contact with our counterparts in World Cup participating countries, and then we have an intelligence community that is constantly gathering information. In order to get into South Africa these people will have many obstacles to get through,” said Naidoo.

Furthermore, South African National Police Commissioner, Bheki Cele, has met with his counterparts in Botswana, Namibia, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other SADC countries. The meeting was aimed at strengthening regional cooperation amongst African countries, to better enable the eradication of cross border crimes and restrict the movement of identified criminals.

“All of these initiatives form part of the legacy programme for the World Cup, Naidoo explains. “Once these systems are in place they will last long after the World Cup. We will keep using these relationships and equipment to ensure a safer region and a safer country. South Africans will benefit from us hosting the tournament long after July 2010.”

“Right now our priority is to deliver a safe and secure tournament. Overconfidence is tantamount to complacency, and we don’t want to be complacent,” says Naidoo. “We want people to come to South Africa and enjoy themselves, so we are going to be firm but friendly.”
LENDING A HELPING HAND

As the build-up for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ continues to gain momentum, thousands of ordinary South Africans took part in the final interviews for volunteer positions for the tournament.

The chance of being part of the ‘greatest show on earth’ have these Final Draw volunteers excited and thousands of others on tenterhooks as they go undergo the interview process to be a volunteer at the Finals.

By the end of March the thousands of South Africans who underwent the volunteer interview process for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ will know whether they made the list of 15 000 people who will be part of South Africa’s historic World Cup.

For many the interview process is an opportunity to show how their on the job skills could be put to use during the tournament while for others it was simply about being part of South Africa’s history. The month and a half long interview process started on 11 January and in Johannesburg hundreds of volunteer hopefuls gathered at the Organising Committee’s (OC) Sandton offices. Fifty-four year old Johannesburg based cleaner Maria Masegela said she could not pass up the opportunity to apply to be part of the World Cup.

“I decided to volunteer because I recognised that if my country can do it I can also do it. I want to welcome the people to South Africa. I love making people feel at home,” she said.

Masegela said she believed the World Cup would leave a legacy of excellence for future generations of South Africans.

“What will be left behind is a history which will ensure that those who are growing up and even those who are not here yet will be proud of. In fact I think they will want to do more and the World Cup will be the source of that.”

People of all ages and backgrounds faced a panel made up OC staff as they tried to pick the 15 000 who would be the face of South Africa in June and July.

Stanley Zulu a Regional Logistics Manager at Transnet – South Africa’s government owned rail, port and pipeline company – hopes that his expertise in the transport sector would help ensure his position as a volunteer in the OC’s Transport Department. He believes the World Cup will open the world’s eyes to the possibilities that are available in South Africa.

“If you look at the bigger picture, this will open us up to the economic world. It will change people mindsets. People often look at Africa and think it is daunting, it is poor. I think it will be a very big eye opener for them when they come here.”

Many of those who have applied for the volunteer programme have a long history of giving their time in aid of their communities. Part-time Radio deejay and student Bonalo Matjeke, 21, who volunteers for an NGO working with underprivileged youth, said she was looking forward to meeting people from all walks of life.

“I think it is important that this happens so we can unite and experience the different and diverse cultures and personalities that exist in South Africa.”

The successful South African volunteers chosen from this interview process will then be taken through extensive training in March and April in all nine of the Host Cities of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
World Cup Teams Set Up Camp

For the 32 teams at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, where they will be based is a very important part of their success at the tournament.

When the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ kicks off on 11 June the tournament’s impact will already have been felt at 32 very different venues and communities across the country. For the people in the towns and cities where the 32 participating teams will be based during the tournament, the legacy left behind will be immediate and tangible.

An Afrikaans rugby-playing school in Johannesburg, some of the top golf resorts along the South African coast and a small town in the country’s most sparsely populated province, are just some of the unusual places that teams have chosen to live and train during the FIFA World Cup.

What each place has in common, however, is that for the initial phases of the tournament they will be a home away from home for the best footballers on the planet.

A team base camp is a combination of a training facility and hotel which teams will use as their primary residence during the tournament. For the opening rounds of the tournament teams will train and live in their base camps travelling to match venues the day before matches.

For ease of use, FIFA requires that all training sites are within a 20 minute bus drive from their respective team base camp hotels under normal traffic conditions. Each training site must have a certain standard of facilities to meet each team’s needs.

A project team from the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa (OC) competitions division identified suitable venues for team base camps.

Following site inspections by team managers after the Final Draw in Cape Town on 4 December, the teams provided FIFA and the OC with requests to be based at one of the identified sites.

This OC team also has to ensure that all facilities, which include a top quality pitch, pitch equipment such as goalposts, spotlights, a team dressing room and 200 seats for media, are put in place before teams arrive in South Africa for the tournament.

If the sites do not meet team requirements they will be upgraded by the time teams arrive.

Nineteen teams will be based in Gauteng, one in Mpumalanga, three in the North West, one in the Northern Cape, five in KwaZulu-Natal and three in the Western Cape.

Argentina will make use of the high performance centre at the University of Pretoria, which provides all the necessary base camp facilities at one location

Teams will be training at top-class facilities, like Southdowns College near Tshwane/Pretoria, that are tailored to their needs:

OC Chief Executive Officer Dr Danny Jordaan said the standard of facilities provided for teams was an important part of their tournament preparation.

“All teams travelling to South Africa want to be able to prepare for the tournament in the best conditions possible. We, at the Organising Committee have gone to great lengths to ensure that they will be comfortable in the build-up to the tournament in South Africa.”

Although the majority of team base camps will be in Gauteng because of the proximity to four of the ten match venues including Soccer City, where the final will be played, a number of teams have chosen to base themselves in smaller communities.

Dr Jordaan said the team base camps also provided an opportunity to expose communities who were not normally involved with football to the world’s biggest sport.

“Look at a school like Randburg High School in Johannesburg. Rugby is the first sport yet Brazil will use the school as a training site and the community will be able to watch some of the best footballers in the world. The game can only grow from interactions like this,” he said.

Note:

WHO’LL BE BASED WHERE?

Gauteng (19): Argentina, Italy, Germany, USA (all Tshwane/Pretoria and surrounds), Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Honduras, Korea DPR, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa (all Johannesburg and surrounds), Côte d’Ivoire, Switzerland (both Vanderbijlpark and Randburg)

Mpumalanga (1): Chile (Nelspruit)

North West (3): England, Korea Republic (Rustenburg), Spain (Potchefstroom)

Northern Cape (1): Uruguay (Kimberley)

KwaZulu-Natal (5): Algeria, Cameroon, Greece, Nigeria (all Durban and surrounds), Paraguay (Midlands)

Western Cape (3): Denmark, France (both Knysna), Japan (George)
NEW STADIUMS PASSING THE TEST

Six new stadiums will make their debut during the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa and preparations for their unveiling are well underway.

Just as the world’s football players have to be put through their paces in the build up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, so too do the new stadiums. And with just over 100 days left until the tournament gets underway, all but two have successfully hosted major sporting events.

While there are ten stadiums in total that will host FIFA World Cup matches, five of them are new and one received a massive upgrade (Soccer City) – and were not part of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009. These stadiums will all meet the standards set by FIFA.

Chief Executive Officer of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee, Dr Danny Jordaan, said there was never any doubt that the stadiums would be ready.

“We always knew that our stadiums would be ready and not only that, we knew that they would be among the best in the world.”

Dr Jordaan said each stadium, in its own right, was a triumph for South Africa.

Soccer City will be tested in March, ready to host the opening match on 11 June.

VITAL STATS: SOCCER CITY STADIUM
Location: Nasrec, south west of Johannesburg
Owners: City of Johannesburg
Capacity: 88 460

MATCH SCHEDULE
11 June – South Africa vs Mexico
14 June – Netherlands vs Denmark
17 June – Argentina vs Korea Republic
20 June – Brazil vs Cape Verde
23 June – Ghana vs Germany
27 June – Round of 16
2 July – Quarterfinal
11 July – Final

Soccer City will be tested in March, ready to host the opening match on 11 June.

VITAL STATS: ELLIS PARK STADIUM
Location: New Doornfontein, south of Johannesburg CBD
Owners: City of Johannesburg (managed by Ellis Park World of Sport Management Company)
Capacity: 61 639

MATCH SCHEDULE
12 June – Argentina vs Nigeria
15 June – Brazil vs Korea DPR
18 June – Slovenia vs USA
21 June – Spain vs Honduras
24 June – Slovakia vs Italy
28 June – Round of 16
3 July – Quarterfinal

VITAL STATS: ELLIS PARK STADIUM
Location: New Doornfontein, south of Johannesburg CBD
Owners: City of Johannesburg (managed by Ellis Park World of Sport Management Company)
Capacity: 61 639

MATCH SCHEDULE
12 June – Argentina vs Nigeria
15 June – Brazil vs Korea DPR
18 June – Slovenia vs USA
21 June – Spain vs Honduras
24 June – Slovakia vs Italy
28 June – Round of 16
3 July – Quarterfinal

Ellis Park will host matches in June and July.
STADIUMS
Feature

LOFTUS VERSFELD STADIUM

VITAL STATS: LOFTUS VERSFELD STADIUM
Location: Sunnyside, east of Tshwane/Pretoria CBD
Owners: Blue Bulls Rugby Union
Capacity: 49 365

MATCH SCHEDULE
13 June – Serbia vs Ghana
16 June – South Africa vs Uruguay
19 June – Cameroon vs Denmark
23 June – USA vs Algeria
25 June – Chile vs Spain
29 June – Round of 16

ROYAL BAFOKENG STADIUM

VITAL STATS: ROYAL BAFOKENG STADIUM
Location: Phokeng, north of Rustenburg
Owners: Royal Bafokeng Nation
Capacity: 44 530

MATCH SCHEDULE
12 June – England vs USA
15 June – New Zealand vs Slovakia
19 June – Ghana vs Australia
22 June – Mexico vs Uruguay
24 June – Denmark vs Japan
26 June – Round of 16
FREE STATE STADIUM

VITAL STATS: FREE STATE STADIUM
Location: Westdene, west of Mangaung/Bloemfontein CBD
Owners: Mangaung Local Municipality (managed by Free State Rugby Union)
Capacity: 45 058

MATCH SCHEDULE
14 June – Japan vs Cameroon
17 June – Greece vs Nigeria
20 June – Slovakia vs Paraguay
22 June – France vs South Africa
24 June – Switzerland vs Honduras
27 June – Round of 16

GREEN POINT STADIUM

VITAL STATS: GREEN POINT STADIUM
Location: Green Point, west of Cape Town CBD
Owners: City of Cape Town (operated by SAIL/Stade de France)
Capacity: 66 005

MATCH SCHEDULE
11 June – Uruguay vs France
14 June – Italy vs Paraguay
18 June – England vs Algeria
21 June – Portugal vs Korea DPR
24 June – Cameroon vs Netherlands
29 June – Round of 16
3 July – Quarterfinal
6 July – Semifinal
NELSON MANDELA BAY STADIUM

VITAL STATS: NELSON MANDELA BAY STADIUM
Location: North End, north of Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth CBD
Owners: Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (operated by Access Facilities and Leisure Management)
Capacity: 46 082

MATCH SCHEDULE
12 June – Korea Republic vs Greece
15 June – Côte d’Ivoire vs Portugal
18 June – Germany vs Serbia
21 June – Chile vs Switzerland
23 June – Slovenia vs England
26 June – Round of 16
2 July – Quarterfinal
10 July – 3rd/4th place play-off

DURBAN STADIUM

VITAL STATS: DURBAN STADIUM
Location: Stamford Hill, north of Durban CBD
Owners: eThekwini Municipality
Capacity: 69 957

MATCH SCHEDULE
13 June – Germany vs Australia
16 June – Spain vs Switzerland
19 June – Netherlands vs Japan
22 June – Nigeria vs Korea Republic
25 June – Portugal vs Brazil
28 June – Round of 16
7 July – Semifinal
MBOMBELA STADIUM

VITAL STATS: MBOMBELA
Location: Mataffin, west of Nelspruit
Owners: Mbombela Local Municipality
Capacity: 43,589

MATCH SCHEDULE
16 June – Honduras vs Chile
20 June – Italy vs New Zealand
23 June – Australia vs Serbia
25 June – Korea DPR vs Côte d’Ivoire

PETER MOKABA STADIUM

VITAL STATS: PETER MOKABA
Location: Polokwane Extension 30, south of Polokwane CBD
Owners: Polokwane Local Municipality
Capacity: 45,264

MATCH SCHEDULE
13 June – Algeria vs Slovenia
17 June – France vs Mexico
22 June – Greece vs Argentina
24 June – Paraguay vs New Zealand
“TIME TO AWAKEN HOPE”

It’s been 12 years since South Africa first stepped onto the biggest football stage of them all and here the captain from that day, Lucas Radebe, recalls the excitement and looks forward to what will be achieved with his country set to now host the FIFA World Cup™.

“Incredible,” that’s how Lucas Radebe recalls the emotion of taking the field in his first FIFA World Cup™ finals.

Back at France 1998, as South Africa made their first tentative steps onto football’s greatest stage, Radebe had the added distinction of being his nation’s captain. Unsurprisingly, considering he was born in Soweto, in 1969, at a time when South Africa were banned from international sport, he could only marvel at what he had achieved through football.

“It was an incredible feeling being captain of South Africa’s first World Cup campaign in France in 1998,” Radebe remembers. “As a kid growing up I could only dream of one day playing in the World Cup that I had only seen on television before. Playing in the World Cup in France in 1998 and also captaining my country at the tournament was one of the highlights of my career and an experience I will never ever forget.”

Bafana Bafana’s first match at the 1998 tournament was a chastening 3-0 loss against the hosts, but subsequent draws against Denmark (1-1) and Saudi Arabia (2-2) suggested that the South Africans weren’t out of their depth.

When they returned to the world stage, four years later in Korea Republic and Japan, the now-33-year-old defender was still captain of a team eager to show what they had learnt previously. They did just that by opening with a 2-2 draw against Paraguay.
followed by a first win in the tournament, 1-0, against Slovenia. In fact, up until 73 minutes into their third group match against Spain the were heading to the Round of 16. However, Radebe's excitement at scoring a rare goal in that match, a headed effort for South Africa's second in an eventual 3-2 loss, was tempered by Paraguay winning their match 3-1 to pip Bafana Bafana by the odd goal.

With those experiences in his memory bank, Radebe has some sage advice to the current crop of national team players as they look to break new ground and maintain the record of host nations progressing past the group stages.

"It is said that one learns from our mistakes. My feeling is that we need to take the experiences – both good and bad – from the previous World Cups as well as the experience gained from winning the African Cup of Nations on home soil in 1996 and put those experiences into the learning phase in preparation for the 2010 World Cup on home soil," Radebe says.

His thoughts on whether the African continent's other 2010 hopefuls can meet their own lofty ambitions run along much the same lines with him adding that "it is Africa's time".

"I do believe that Africa's time has come to rightfully claim its place in world football," he says forthrightly.

"What better place to do so than on 'home soil' in South Africa. Although the tournament is taking place in South Africa, this is Africa's World Cup and our time to shine," he continues.

When, in 2005, it became time for 'the Chief' (as he was known in England in reference to his previous South African club, Kaizer Chiefs) to hang up his boots, he did so with a fair number of honours behind his name.

Besides retiring as South Africa's most-capped international, with 70 appearances; in 2000 FIFA awarded him their Fair Play Award for his efforts to rid soccer of racism as well as for his work with children in South Africa and his testimonial match drew a season-high crowd of 38 000 to Leeds United's Elland Road – fair recognition for a universally popular figure after 11 years of loyal service to the club.

It was thus fitting when, in 2009, the South African Tourism agency went looking for an ' Ambassador to the World' they zeroed in on the ever-affable star.

"Being able to promote our country to both the rest of the world as well as the people of our country has been a fantastic experience and I have no doubt that with the 2010 World Cup tournament taking place in South Africa people will experience first hand what we have been telling them for some time now," Radebe says of the role.

"The World Cup is not only about the 90 minutes that happen on the field of play but it is about the 24-7-365 service that apart from South Africa's abundant beauty, all World Cup projects have gone ahead with without a hitch.

"The doubts need to stop listening to all the negativity and see for themselves what we are capable of. This is not the first major event that we as a country have hosted and certainly won't be the last either," he states.

Of course, away from football and promoting his homeland, Radebe's other great love is charitable causes – with his recent involvement in the global campaign to raise aid for Haiti's earthquake sufferers being another prime example.

"Sport has provided me with an opportunity to be able to give back to others less fortunate. After all it is sport that provided me with such opportunities as I ordinarily may not have experienced. Our former president, Mr Nelson Mandela said at the Laureus World Sports Awards in 2000 that . . . 'sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair.'

"I have always remembered that and for me the World Cup is so important for that specific reason. We need to use this opportunity that FIFA has granted us to awaken hope on the African continent," he concludes.

Among his duties as SA Tourism's 2010 Ambassador, Radebe helps deliver destination messages with the aim of helping grow interest in the country globally but says that his main message is there for all to see.

"In my opinion actions speak louder than words and it is my duty to get as many people to South Africa as possible to experience what our unique country has to offer," he says, with clear reference to the fact that apart from South Africa's abundant beauty, all World Cup projects have gone ahead without a hitch.

"I am sure that the World Cup will be an excellent platform to showcase what we as a country are capable of."

In his role as SA Tourism ambassador Radebe has on numerous occasions met with delegations of foreign media, such as a contingent of Spanish Press pictured on the lawns of the Union Buildings in Tshwane/Pretoria.
LEGENDS FUEL WORLD CUP FEVER

With combined experience of 14 FIFA World Cup™ tournaments, you couldn’t find more qualified commentators to express their views ahead of the 19th instalment of football’s showpiece event than Franz Beckenbauer, Roger Milla, Sir Bobby Charlton, Hugo Sanchez and Pelé.

“The anticipation is huge,” enthused Franz Beckenbauer recently when asked about the build-up to South Africa 2010. He continued: “It’s been this way since the Final Draw in December, when we found out who would be playing who. It will be an African World Cup and I’m really looking forward to it, because it’s going to be very colourful and very entertaining.”

Cameroonian great Roger Milla says he is ecstatic that Africa is being given the opportunity to host the tournament. “In Africa, we are so happy to have received this World Cup – we could not believe we would get it. Every time I come to Zurich, I thank President Blatter for giving the African continent.”

Cameroonian great Roger Milla

Sir Bobby Charlton, who inspired England to the world crown in 1966, concurs: “I’m very happy for Africa. The continent had to wait so many years for this occasion. To have South Africa hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup is not only very good for football, but also for the whole African continent.”

Mexican great Hugo Sanchez concedes: “I’m very happy for Africa. The continent had to wait so many years for this occasion. To have South Africa hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup is not only very good for football, but also for the whole African continent.”

Naturally, Pelé, who long pushed for an African nation to be granted the right to host the FIFA World Cup, is relishing the extravaganza. “Everybody knows I’m very confident and happy because I was the one who was fighting for the World Cup to be in Africa,” he says. “They deserve it.”

So, how far can the African teams go at this year’s FIFA World Cup? “I’m confident that an African team can reach the semifinals,” Beckenbauer ventures. “Ghana are strong, Côte d’Ivoire are strong and the South Africans have home advantage.”

Pelé, who boldly – but ultimately incorrectly – predicted that an African team would win the tournament by the turn of the century, also foresees sides from the home continent causing upsets. “Some years ago, I talked about the improvement of the African teams. Unfortunately, they showed it in the Olympics against Brazil, when they beat us!” he exclaims, referring to Nigeria’s elimination of a star-studded Seleção en route to gold at Atlanta 1996.

“Its difficult to say what will happen this year, but maybe we will see a surprise. The African teams have tough groups but if they qualify for the knockout stage, there’ll certainly be a surprise.” And while Pelé would like to see an exciting final, “I’m personally very sorry that the World Cup is this year, in 2010, because ten is my lucky number and I wish I could play!” he jokes. “But as I’m not going to play, I hope that Brazil will go all the way and that we will see an exciting final.”

For all the latest interviews with the world’s football personalities, log on to the Official Website of FIFA at www.FIFA.com
They’re coming!

**Lionel Messi**
Country: Argentina  
Age: 22  
Club: FC Barcelona (Spain)

**Cristiano Ronaldo**
Country: Portugal  
Age: 25  
Club: Real Madrid (Spain)

**Wayne Rooney**
Country: England  
Age: 24  
Club: Manchester United (England)

**Kaká**
Country: Brazil  
Age: 27  
Club: Real Madrid (Spain)

**Didier Drogba**
Country: Côte d’Ivoire  
Age: 31  
Club: Chelsea FC (England)
UPWARDLY MOBILE

Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer and Michael Owen all went into their first World Cups as relative unknowns but emerged as genuine world stars. Here we look at a team of 11 current under-23 players who’ll be looking to follow their lead at South Africa 2010.

GOALKEEPER
Hugo Lloris (France)
Born: 26 December 1986
Club: Olympique Lyon
Following a move from Nice at the start of the 2008/09 season, Hugo Lloris has quickly put to bed any fears Olympique Lyon supporters had about the suitability of the man replacing their beloved goalkeeper, Gregory Coupet.
In fact, so commanding has Lloris become that he has gone on to claim France’s No. 1 jersey ahead of Coupet and fellow youngster Steve Mandanda.
In World Cup qualifying, the 23-year-old marked himself out as a confident goalkeeper with sharp reflexes and safe under the high ball and played a big role in the 2006 finalists emerging from the preliminary stage.

DEFENDERS
Samuel Inkoom (Ghana)
Born: 22 August 1989
Club: FC Basel (Switzerland)
A senior international with Ghana’s Black Stars since he was 19, Samuel Inkoom is the embodiment of the modern fullback: just as comfortable on attack as he is performing the less glamorous defensive work.
Inkoom began his career at Sekondi Hasaacas, but Ghanaian giants Asante Kotoko signed him on in January 2008. While there, his progress with the Ghana’s youth teams caught the attention of FC Barcelona, amongst others, but FC Basel eventually tied him down to a three-year deal in 2009.
The move away from home comforts seems not to have affected the 20-year-old’s play as he was a star in Ghana’s triumphant 2009 FIFA Under-20 World Cup campaign before standing out in the underperforming Black Stars team at the recently concluded Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.
Simon Kjær (Denmark)
Born: 26 March 1989
Club: US Citta di Palermo (Italy)
At 20 years old you wouldn’t expect a central defender to be an imposing force, but Simon Kjær proves the exception to the rule. Groomed at FC Midtjylland in his homeland, the tall and composed centreback played only one senior season before clubs like Real Madrid and Liverpool came calling. However, Kjær decided in early 2008 that first team football would better aid his development and joined Serie A team Palermo.
The move has paid dividends as his excellent performances there have not only continued keeping big clubs on high alert but he has also become a fixture in the Danish defence since his debut in February last year.

Alexis Sanchez, Mesut Özil and Simon Kjær are but three of many starlets looking to shine bright at South Africa 2010.

Gerard Pique (Spain)
Born: 2 February 1987
Club: FC Barcelona
Tall, confident on the ball and a medal collection at 23 which exceeds most of the world’s best players’… there seems to be no stopping Gerard Pique.
Having spent his formative years in hometown club FC Barcelona’s
academy, Pique was then snapped up as a 17-year-old by Manchester United to be polished.

However, with the impenetrable partnership of Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic threatening to stifile his lofty ambitions, Pique returned to the Catalan giants four years later.

There he has come into his own with his technical know-how and confidence having made himself one of the first names on Pep Guardiola’s team sheet and the same has been true for La Furia Roja, since his debut with them a year ago.

Kim Min-Woo (Korea Republic)
Born: 25 February 1990
Club: Yonsei University
In scoring three goals in four matches at the 2009 FIFA Under-20 World Cup, Kim Min-Woo quickly had scouts enquiring who he was. They would certainly have been surprised to discover that the 19-year-old was a leftback. Still attached to his collegiate side in Korea Republic, Yonsei University, Min-Woo will be available to sign a professional contract in the near future. However, until that happens, his goal will be to prove that he offers more than attacking instincts and is the ideal long-term candidate for the the red No. 3 jersey.

**MIDFIELDERS**

**Aaron Lennon (England)**
Born: 16 April 1987
Club: Tottenham Hotspur
With rightwing being one of the few places left to play for in Fabio Capello’s England starting XI, Aaron Lennon’s excellent form this season for Tottenham Hotspur suggests that even that position is all but sewn up.

Always considered a dangerous customer because of his speed, the pint-sized 22-year-old has added maturity, composure and, more importantly, accurate crosses to round off his game.

In so doing, Lennon has ended any doubts about whether he has the ability to ever become truly world-class.

**Mesut Özil (Germany)**
Born: 15 October 1988
Club: Werder Bremen
Mesut Özil, Germany’s star in their triumphant 2009 European Under-21 Championship campaign, has quickly shown that his great vision, nimble-footed skills and creativity behind the strikers is a necessary asset for Der Mannschaft – so much so that coach Joachim Löw has altered their formation to accommodate him.

Despite his slight build, Özil – whose parents are Turkish – has worked hard on his physical presence at his club Werder Bremen, and with crowds having been vowed by his enigmatic performances week-in and week-out in the Bundesliga, he’ll be looking to show at the World Cup that Löw’s faith in his ability is not misplaced.

**Alex Song (Cameroon)**
Born: 9 September 1987
Club: Arsenal FC (England)
Prior to the last year or so Alex Song struggled to convince

Arsenal supporters that Arsène Wenger had signed anything but a squad player from French club Bastia in 2005. However, with the confidence the Cameroonian grater has gained from regular starts he has shown that he is not just a lion-hearted ‘engine-room’ operator but an accomplished one too – similar in style to his Ghanaian rival Michael Essien.

The same qualities have been evident for the Indomitable Lions where, during the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations, he even filled in at centreback – ending a record-breaking run in the starting line-up by his uncle, Rigobert.

**Alexis Sánchez (Chile)**
Born: 19 December 1988
Club: Udinese Calcio (Italy)
The wonder of the winger Alexis Sánchez has long been known since well-respected football magazine, World Soccer, nominated him as one of their ‘50 most exciting teenagers in the world game’ in 2008.

Nicknamed ‘El Niño Maravilla’ (the Wonder Boy), the 21-year-old is blessed with seering pace, tricky feet and intelligence.

He used these attributes to maximum effect in setting up many of the goals that helped Humberto Suazo finish as top-scorer in South American qualifying and come June, with expectations on the talented Chilean squad high, Sánchez will be looking to repeat the trick.

**Luis Suárez (Uruguay)**
Born: 24 January 1987
Club: AFC Ajax (Netherlands)
In averaging a goal a game this season for Ajax Amsterdam, Luis Suárez is continuing a long line of exceptional goal scorers groomed at the club – where he serves as captain.

Furthermore, and in typical fashion for a Dutch-reared player, Suárez can operate in any of three positions – centre-forward or either wing in this case. This ability, coupled with his pace and strength, makes him especially difficult to contain during a match which he’ll no doubt show come World Cup time.

**Carlos Vela (Mexico)**
Born: 3 January 1989
Club: Arsenal FC (England)
Match 1 of the 2010 FIFA World Cup will quickly give Carlos Vela the chance to show that he has translated a promising youth career into significant senior international form.

Having joined Arsenal on the back of his golden boot exploits at the 2005 FIFA Under-17 World Cup, the nippy striker has continued his education under one of the most astute managers of young talent. For El Tri this has meant benefitting from a more round-ed attacker, who averages a goal every three matches for them, and Arsenal have tied Vela down to a new long-term contract in December 2009 to gain their own rewards in the future.
**NO EASY PICKINGS**

With two former FIFA World Cup™ winners, in Uruguay and France, and perennial group escapees, Mexico, drawn with them, South Africa will be hard-pressed to uphold the trend of hosts emerging from the group stages. In order to do so, they will definitely have to heed lessons from their previous meetings against the three.

**South Africa vs Mexico**

The opening match of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ on 11 June at Soccer City will bring together South Africa and Mexico for just the fourth time in history.

Interestingly all three previous clashes have taken place in the USA; the first being in October 1993 when South Africa’s 15th international match since the country’s re-admission into world sport 18 months earlier. In fact, it was also their first match off the African continent.

That kind of inexperience was evident as the ‘home’ team, who had recently finished as runners-up in Copa America, dominated proceedings.

Striker David Patino opened the scoring after 24 minutes before defender Ignacio Ambriz doubled El Tri’s lead from a set-piece 15 minutes later. Bafana Bafana found their feet somewhat in the second half but couldn’t prevent Benjamin Galindo adding a third in the 77th minute and rounding off the scoring three minutes from the end for a resounding 4-0 victory.

Almost seven years later, in June 2000, South Africa were back in the USA for a US Cup clash against the Central Americans. In that match, after an opening 35 minutes in which South Africa had several chances to strike first, the Mexican attacking duo of Jesus Olade and Luis Perez combined for back-to-back goals, five minutes apart, to put their team 2-0 up at the half-time whistle.

When Benni McCarthy latched onto a rebound to score for South Africa in the 32nd minute, it prompted a period when they created numerous other chances to level the scores and while they did score again, via an 89th minute penalty from Thabo Mngomeni, it was only a consolation in a 4-2 loss.

The other two Mexican goals came via the boot of Horacio Sanchez, cousin of the then Mexican coach and legendary former player Hugo Sanchez, in five minute spell after coming on in the 79th minute.

When the two teams next met, in 2005, South Africa were one of the two guest nations, alongside Colombia, invited to take part in the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Coach at the time, Stuart Baxter, took an experimental squad to the American west coast where they were grouped with Jamaica, Guatemala and again, El Tri.

**Goals against:**
- South Africa vs Mexico: 9
- South Africa vs Uruguay: 4

**Goals for:**
- South Africa vs Mexico: 2
- South Africa vs Uruguay: 3

**Lost:**
- South Africa vs Mexico: 0
- South Africa vs Uruguay: 3

**Drawn:**
- South Africa vs Mexico: 1
- South Africa vs Uruguay: 2

**Will Carlos Alberto Parreira still have his thumbs up after South Africa’s opening match of the World Cup?**

They came up against the Mexicans in their first match of the tournament and after some early scares jumped into to a 2-0 lead, courtesy of Phil Evans’s 28th minute headed goal and Elrio van Heerden’s 41st minute effort. The Mexicans came hard at Bafana Bafana in the second half, but could only muster one goal in reply as Francisco Rodriguez finally found a way past a determined backline to score from a goalmouth scramble with seven minutes left.

South Africa’s victory meant Mexico became the first team to lose to them while ranked in the top 10 of the FIFA World Rankings. Los Aztecas had already secured a top-four place.

South Africa’s recently appointed captain, Lucas Radebe, opened the scoring early on at the King Fahd Stadium, but again inexperience on the world stage showed as they conceded an equaliser, scored by Dario Silva, a minute later. A further lapse in concentration in defence saw Uruguay’s captain Alvaro Recoba give his team the lead for the first time in the 41st minute.

Twenty minutes into the second half La Celeste seemed to have the match wrapped up as Silva added his second to make the score 3-1 to...
South Africa vs France

South Africa’s last match of the group stage this year will pit them up against 1998 FIFA World Cup winners France, and, it will undoubtedly be a pivotal clash as one or both teams look to secure a Round of 16 place.

Bafana Bafana and les Bleus have met three times previously, and a quick overview of those clashes do not make for pleasant reading for the home team. Of the three, France have won two and drawn the other, but perhaps the most telling statistic is that South Africa’s only goal against them came 40 minutes into their first meeting.

That first meeting was an October 2007 friendly that took place at the Felix-Bollaert Stadium in Lens. At the time Clive Barker was preparing the reigning Africa Cup of Nations champions for the upcoming FIFA Confederations Cup. Shaun Bartlett gave South Africa the lead five minutes before half-time. However, Aime Jacquet’s introduction of Zinedine Zidane after the break gave the French team the impetus to eventually go on and win the match 2-1 – courtesy of goals by Stephane Guivarc’h and Ibrahim Ba.

Significantly, this match marked the debut of France’s current captain, Thierry Henry, and he, along with South Africa’s record scorer Benni McCarthy, are the only players from either side that day who are still part of their respective national squads. Bafana Bafana and les Bleus’ second meeting famously took place on a windy night at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille, as both teams kicked off their 1998 FIFA World Cup campaign. On this occasion ‘Zizou’ started and he again played a big part as the home team followed up a 34th minute Christophe Dugarry goal with a Pierre Issa own goal and a Thierry Henry effort in the second half. The 3-0 victory is regarded as the momentum-setting boost that aided the French team’s route to eventually lifting the trophy.

Interestingly, South Africa’s coach at the time was a Frenchman, in Philippe Troussier. The most recent clash between the two countries took place almost ten years ago, as France arrived in South Africa for an October 2000 friendly at Ellis Park Stadium. Unfortunately the match didn’t have the spirited fightback or intrigue of the previous two encounters as both teams struggled for cohesion and the match ended sterile; a goalless stalemate.

However, come 16:00 on June 22, France captain Thierry Henry made his debut against South Africa and on 22 June will be looking to add to the one goal he has scored against them before.

SA vs France at a glance:

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AFRICA MUST RISE TO 2010 OCCASION

Expectations of an African success at the 2010 FIFA World Cup are high, but can the teams meet the challenge? The Africa Cup of Nations in Angola provided some answers.

On 4 December 2009 the football world stood still as the Final Draw for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ took place in Cape Town. For the first time in history, six African nations would go into the draw pots and this was enough to get South Africa’s president, Jacob Zuma, boldly announcing to the world that the FIFA World Cup trophy would be staying in Africa after the tournament. President Zuma’s ambition was indeed admirable.

Three years ago, at the Preliminary Draw in Durban, Ghanaian-born former French international and 1998 world champion, Marcel Desailly, was a little more guarded in his expectations. “We need to lift the expectations but maybe 2010 is too early... maybe in Brazil [in 2014],” he said.

These comments come off the back of historical data which points to the fact that the best performance of an African team in a World Cup was in 1990 when Cameroon progressed to the quarterfinals. This feat has been repeated once since then when Senegal reached the same stage at Korea-Japan 2002. At the previous World Cup in Germany, the only African team to reach the Round of 16 was Ghana. Out of the African teams participating at the World Cup, only Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire are ranked in the top 20 of the FIFA World Rankings.

All this being said though, South Africa 2010 is arguably the best opportunity Africa has had to reach the uncharted territory that is the World Cup semifinal. Apart from the record number of qualifiers, they’ll also have ‘home’ advantage.

While playing in Africa will motivate the African players and help them raise their game to new heights; proper preparation, top form and a bit of luck will go a long way to ensure that African teams play to their full potential, given the tough draw that was dished out to them.

The reality is that they will need to beat the big teams if they are to progress to the latter stages and make the kind of impact Jacob Zuma and the rest of the African continent is hoping for. This year’s edition of the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola was an ideal opportunity for the Africa’s World Cup participating teams and coaches to test their wits against Africa’s finest and gauge how well prepared their respective teams are for the big kick-off come 11th June.

Algeria entered the tournament on the back of a strong World Cup qualifying campaign which saw them surprisingly eliminate their arch rivals Egypt. Les Fennecs’ test was against Malawi, a team bookies tipped to finish bottom of the group. However, poor defending and wasteful finishing allowed Malawi to dispatch North Africa’s only participating team at the World Cup, 3-0.

By the second match, and as the tournament progressed, the Algerians showed the kind of resilience much of their recent success has been built upon. Combining hard work and a relentless fighting spirit Les Fennecs bounced back to get a 1-0 win against Mali and goalless draw against the hosts to send them through.

Despite being eliminated by a the Egyptian side and then losing the third-place play-off, Algeria’s coach Rabah Saadane will take many positives from their experience in Angola – and hope that their unpredictability catches Group C rivals – England, USA and Slovenia – unawares.

Côte d’Ivoire arrived at the Cup of Nations as favourites on the back
of an undefeated World Cup qualifying campaign and boasting a star-studded squad. Barcelona midfielder Yaya Toure shared the level of confidence that many observers had on the Elephants’ chances of success at the Cup of Nations: “I have confidence in my team. I think if we can keep our concentration at the highest level then I know we can win this cup. You just have to look at the players we have. We have Didier Drogba, then there is my brother Kolo (Toure), there is me and then Eboue and I feel that we are the players who can make the difference. But we have to keep the level very high in order to win, but we can do it.”

If their stuttering start, drawing 0-0 with Burkina Faso, was a shock then their subsequent comprehensive 3-1 victory over Ghana highlighted their quality – in the process sending them through to the quarterfinals following the withdrawal of Togo. However, despite taking the lead twice against the Algerians, the Elephants lost.

Captain Didier Drogba eased the tension by issuing an apology to the Ivorian fans at half-time. “I have confidence in my team. I think if we can keep our concentration at the highest level then I know we can win this cup. You just have to look at the players we have. We have Didier Drogba, then there is my brother Kolo (Toure), there is me and then Eboue and I feel that we are the players who can make the difference. But we have to keep the level very high in order to win, but we can do it.”

In 2009 the Black Stars of Ghana became the first ever African country to win the FIFA Under-20 World Cup. With this in mind Serbian coach Milovan Rajevac used the Angola 2010 as an opportunity to test the credentials of Ghana’s latest crop of youngsters at senior international level. FIFA Under-20 World Cup Golden Shoe and Golden Boot winner Dominic Adiyiah joined fellow youth champion André Ayew, son of legendary Abedi Pele, in what can be described as an experimental squad. The absence of Ghana’s key midfield trio of Stephen Appiah, Michael Essien and Sulley Muntari meant that these less established players had to step up. It wasn’t too much of a surprise then when they kicked off their tournament in poor fashion by losing 3-1 to the Ivorians. However, they then went on to play a rock solid defensive game plan in their next three fixtures as they dispatched Burkina Faso, hosts Angola and Nigeria without conceding a goal to reach the final. Unfortunately, their luck ran out in the final as they failed to break down eventual champions, Egypt.

Rajevac’s team performed beyond expectations and now he faces the challenge of striking the right balance between experience and youth in his World Cup squad. If he does that right then there’s a chance the Black Stars can be the surprise African package at a second consecutive World Cup – despite Group D pit-ting them against tough challengers Germany, Australia and Serbia.

**Nigeria’s opening match at Angola 2010** was always going to be a tough test against an Egyptian side with a point to prove. The reigning African champions conceded an early goal but went on to prove their superiority by beating the Super Eagles 3-1.

At that point, the pressure was put onto their local coach Shaiibu Amoudo to restore pride in the camp and demonstrate to the rest of the continent that Nigeria were not a spent force in African football. Looking back, it would seem they did just that, as they strolled to the semi-finals without conceding a goal against Benin, Mozambique and Zambia in the quarterfinals, before being eliminated by a highly organised Ghanaian side. Unfortunately, despite them beating the Super Eagles 1-0 to finish third, the Super Eagles’ overall tournament performance did not sit well with the Nigerian football authorities and Amoudo was subsequently demoted to the ‘B’ team with an international manager to take over.

The likelihood of success for Nigeria at the World Cup now seems to rest on the shoulders of the men tasked with appointing the new coach and whether they get ‘the right man for the job’. There will be no margin for error with the World Cup fast approaching and dangerous Group B rivals Argentina, Greece (both were in their USA 1994 group too) and Korea Republic awaiting a team in flux. **Cameroon** has in recent times acquired a reputation for being slow starters, highlighted by the Indomitable Lions starting World Cup qualifying by losing to Togo and drawing to Morocco and then losing their opening 2010 Africa Cup of Nations match, 1-0 against Gabon.

French coach Paul Le Guen was expected to steer the team to at least the Cup of Nations final with captain Samuel Eto’o adding to his tournament record of 18 goals. However, expectations could not be met, as they only emerged from the group stage by one goal before crashing out to a rampaging Egyptian side in the quarterfinals. In spite of this, Arsenal midfielder Alex Song viewed the experience as a constructive exercise: “It’s good to have played this tournament before the World Cup, because we saw how things went, could see what was working and what wasn’t, and we know what we need to do to be ready for South Africa. The level [at the World Cup] will be much higher and we now need to look at what happened to make sure we’re ready for it.”

Undoubtedly the Cameroonians will need an in-form and motivated Eto’o but greater contributions from the rest of the squad could see them go the furthest out of all the African nations as theirs is arguably have the easiest group, featuring Netherlands, Denmark and Japan.

Overall, the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations was one full of surprises, suggesting that football performance on the continent is becoming very competitive as so-called lesser nations refuse to follow the form book.

However, if the nations that qualified for the World Cup do want to prove Jacob Zuma correct this year those established stars that surprisingly failed to shine will need to come to the fore in South Africa. Furthermore, perhaps the teams should also glean a lesson from the team that will be absent, Egypt, as their collective approach and ruthless efficiency seems a perfect blueprint to success.
The road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ began for an initial group of 54 trios of referees from all over the world in 2007, as it did for the 32 participating teams. The selection process ended three years later on 5 February 2010.

During that time FIFA implemented a comprehensive Refereeing Assistance Programme (RAP) aimed at ensuring that the referees will be in peak condition come 11 June. The key elements of the RAP saw the 54 trios have their performances at FIFA tournaments, RAP seminars and domestic matches assessed.

By 2008, the number of teams had been whittled down to 37, and by 2010 a further seven teams were to be eliminated. These candidates have been under the guidance of Spanish former international referee, José Maria García-Aranda, who refereed at both the 1998 FIFA World Cup and the 2000 UEFA European Championship. García-Aranda has been responsible for coordinating and organising all of the activities involving the candidates including, amongst others, the use of the latest technology in pre-match preparation, regular health and fitness checks and continual tests and updates on changes to the Laws of the Game.

The group of 30 trios of referees that have been selected will participate in a training seminar in March. In May, a final assessment regarding the acting and support referees will be made, followed by the first match appointments for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Of the 30 men named, eight have officiated at a FIFA World Cup before; with South Americans Oscar Ruiz and Carlos Simon (at 45 the oldest referee named) due to participate in their third consecutive finals tournament. Furthermore, the selection of Carlos Batres and Carlos Amarilla, as well as their assistants, will come as a relief to them after both pulled out injured just before the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009 kicked off.

However, arguably the most satisfied candidate will be South African Jerome Damon, who narrowly missed out on selection four years ago but will now get to officiate in his home country at football’s showpiece tournament – and be assisted by his countryman Enock Molefe.

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**THE FULL LIST OF 30**

**AFC**
- Khalil Al Ghamdi (Saudi Arabia)
- Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)
- Subkhiddin Mohd Salleh (Malaysia)
- Yuichi Nishimura (Japan)

**CAF**
- Mohamed Benouza (Algeria)
- Koman Coulibaly (Mali)
- Jerome Damon (South Africa)
- Eddy Maillet (Seychelles)

**CONACAF**
- Joel Aguilar (El Salvador)
- Benito Archundia (Mexico)
- Carlos Batres (Guatemala)
- Marco Rodriguez (Mexico)

**CONMEBOL**
- Carlos Amarilla (Paraguay)
- Hector Baldassi (Argentina)
- Jorge Larrionda (Uruguay)
- Pablo Pozo (Chile)
- Oscar Ruiz (Colombia)
- Carlos Simon (Brazil)

**OFC**
- Michael Hester (New Zealand)
- Peter O’Leary (New Zealand)

**UEFA**
- Olegário Benquerença (Portugal)
- Massimo Busacca (Switzerland)
- Frank de Bleeckere (Belgium)
- Martin Hansson (Sweden)
- Viktor Kassai (Hungary)
- Stephane Lannoy (France (right))
- Roberto Rosetti (Italy)
- Wolfgang Stark (Germany)
- Alberto Undiano Mallenco (Spain)
- Howard Webb (England)
SA’S MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Just like all players, the crowning moment for any referee is to be chosen to ply your trade on the greatest stage of all – the FIFA World Cup™. Ke Nako caught up with South Africa’s Jerome Damon, just days after his dream was realised.

Four years of hard work officiating all over world has seen Jerome Damon achieve his own FIFA World Cup™ dream.

Top South African referee, Jerome Damon, has flown the country’s flag high both locally and internationally many times since making his professional debut in the South African league in 1996. His crowning moment however, is his recent selection to be one of the 30 referees set to officiate at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

“I cannot begin to describe the excitement of being picked to officiate not only in the biggest football tournament, but the very first in my country and in Africa,” Damon said as he prepared to jet off for a final leg of the 2010 FIFA World Cup referees workshop that starts in Switzerland and ends in Italy early in March.

“I feel very special, fortunate and truly blessed to be officiating in such a big occasion for my country – in fact I believe the World Cup coming here can only be surpassed by the release of Madiba (Nelson Mandela),” added the 36-year-old Capetonian.

Damon’s selection is a culmination of four years of hard work and scrutiny under the watchful eye of a FIFA selection panel. The tough selection criteria, included passing a technical, physical, medical and psychological test in addition to being continuously assessed in international matches.

Damon feels that his selection will go a long way in drawing appreciation to the abilities of South African officials.

“This is a very difficult job that requires quick decisions. Sadly, the recognition usually goes to players then maybe a few lucky coaches in football. Match officials seldom get mentioned in good light. You may blow wonderfully for the better part of your career and still be judged on a single mistake”.

In perhaps a big vote of confidence in the sterling job of South African whistle men, Damon will be joined by compatriot Enock Molefe who will be an assistant referee at the World Cup.

“I am really proud of the achievements of Molefe and he deserves the recognition he is getting from FIFA,” said Damon.

Damon’s selection should not surprise those who have been following his career. He is the reigning South Africa referee of the year, an accolade he first won in the 2003/04 season.

He is a member of both the CAF and FIFA refereeing panels and has officiated at the last four Africa Cup of Nations tournaments, in Tunisia (2004), Egypt (2006), Ghana (2008) and Angola this year. Damon has also taken charge of many club competitions in Africa, including Africa Champions League matches. His appointment to the panel for this year’s World Cup is actually a promotion.

“Having a good rapport with the players makes the life of a referee like Damon’s much easier,” said Damon.

The Confederation of Africa football (CAF) was so impressed that they selected Damon and two of his countrymen Daniel Benett and Molefe to be part of the panel in Angola. “I think this is symbolic of the high regard being given to South African referees on the international stage. I am also happy with the standard of officiating in Africa as a whole,” he added.

Other officials from the African continent that will join the South African official in duty at the World Cup are Mohamed Benouza (Algeria), Koman Coulibaly (Mali) and Eddy Maillet (Seychelles).

“I am glad that my other African brothers are part of the team and they have also helped in giving a true picture of our country and continent in their tours of duty because they were here for the Confederations Cup in June,” said Damon.
SA’S NUMBER ONE WORLD CUP FAN

Having won a competition to attend a record-breaking 38 FIFA World Cup™ matches, Thulani Ngcobo is gearing up for the tournament that he describes as a ‘victory for Africa’.

Many of football’s most famous names hold FIFA World Cup™ records. The legendary Pelé’s illustrious career includes the record for the most times an individual has been on the winning World Cup team. He collected three winners medals in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Diego Maradona, perhaps the only player that can, with justification, claim to have been better than Pelé, has the most appearances as captain, with a tally of 16. Cameroon’s great striker Roger Milla remains the oldest player to play in the World Cup when he turned out for his country in 1994 at the age of 42 years and 39 days.

“Nothing can beat the day South Africa hosted the World Cup,” says Ngcobo, who is in line to better the present world record of 20 matches, has a heavy schedule ahead of him. “I have lined up 38 matches that will begin with the opening match when Bafana Bafana play Mexico and end with the final on 11 July.”

The Amakhosi supporter is understandably very excited about the opportunity to become a world record holder, but he insists this is only the second biggest development in his lifelong romance with football. “Nothing can beat the day South Africa won the right to host this

Thulani Ngcobo will really earn the title of ‘super fan’ as he attempts to attend 38 matches during the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ World Cup, not even this competition, “he smiles. “It was not only a victory for my country but for the whole African continent and I remember celebrating like there was no tomorrow when we won the bid.

“We are a poor continent and most of us football fans would have died without attending a World Cup match. However, with it here, we can show off our love for this great game as many as four matches per week, believes eclipsing the 20-match record will be a stroll in the park.

“My sponsors have arranged two matches per day which is really easy to make way for rugby. I specifically remember when the Telkom Charity Cup was moved at the last minute from Ellis Park [Johannesburg] to Rustenburg because the venue had been taken over by a rugby match. Those days are now gone.”

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The opening game will obviously be very emotional for me. I cannot wait to see the spectacular opening ceremony and cheer on Bafana Bafana as they kick off the tournament against Mexico. Like me, they will also get the opportunity to see the best football talents in the world showcase their skills,” Ngcobo enthuses.

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FIFA FAN FEST™
TO COVER THE NATION

While the match venues will be the hub of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, the carnival atmosphere in the ten FIFA Fan Fest™ will more than suffice for those who don’t secure places at the matches themselves.

For hundreds of thousands of football fans, the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa will be about a lot more than what is just happening in stadia. It will also be about meeting new people and taking part in the biggest party in the world. Outside of actually being at one of the matches, the best place to experience the carnival atmosphere over the 31 days will be the official FIFA Fan Fest™ in each of the host cities.

Official public viewing events were first launched by FIFA for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. More than 18 million fans gathered at the 12 official events and transformed Germany into one of the greatest fan parties of all times. Already, South Africa has hosted one FIFA Fan Fest on Long Street in Cape Town. On 4 December 2009, 55 000 fans filled the street and partied well into the evening as the Final Draw was announced. During the World Cup, there will be 10 Fan Fest™ across the nine host cities. All matches will be aired live on world-class giant screens with live music and Diski dancers keeping fans entertained between games. Official 2010 FIFA World Cup merchandise as well as a variety of food and beverages will be on sale, and better yet, entrance will be free.

As Johannesburg, also known as The City of Gold, has two match venues, football fans will be spoilt for choice with two FIFA Fan Fest™ in the city.

Soweto FIFA Fan Fest™
The Soweto FIFA Fan Fest™ is located in the heart of the bustling township of Rockville in Soweto, at the series of fields which make up Ellah Stadium. The Soweto FIFA Fan Fest™ is conveniently located next to the Thokoza Park station of the city’s new Bus Rapid Transit system. Up to 40 000 people can be hosted at Ellah Stadium.

Tshwane/Pretoria FIFA Fan Fest™
Tshwane/Pretoria is the administrative capital of South Africa, the city hosts the second-largest number of embassies in the world, as well as various foreign missions, trade delegations, consulates and international aid organisations. The Union Buildings house the administrative centre of the country and are the setting for presidential inaugurations, including that of South Africa’s first democratically elected president, Nelson Mandela. The sandstone buildings provide an example of fine architecture, with the extensive gardens offering a beautiful view over the city.

The venue for the FIFA Fan Fest™ in Tshwane/Pretoria has as yet not been decided; however, a number of potential sites across the city are being carefully considered. Nevertheless, with the colourful people of Tshwane, and beautiful architecture which abounds in the city, the Tshwane/Pretoria FIFA Fan Fest™ is bound to be a month-long festivity of colour and dance.

Cape Town FIFA Fan Fest™
The Grand Parade will be the venue for the 2010 World Cup FIFA Fan Fest™ in Cape Town. Situated at the heart of the city, the square is surrounded by the Castle of Good Hope (South Africa’s oldest building), the Cape Town City Hall and the newly renovated Cape Town Station. The square holds a lot of historical significance in South Africa having shot to international acclaim when struggle icon, Nelson Mandela, made his famous first public address here after his release from prison in February 1990.

The Grand Parade has undergone extensive upgrades in preparation for the world’s greatest showpiece.
Getting to the FIFA Fan Fest™ will be easy, with the overhauled Cape Town Station just a few hundred meters from the venue. Or through the Fan Walk, which stretches from the Green Point Stadium through the centre of Cape Town to the Grand Parade. Parking areas and a pick-up/drop-off bus service will be available to ensure a safe experience for the fans.

**Cape Town FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Grand Parade
- **Capacity:** 20 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 2.6km
- **Distance to airport:** 20km

**Durban FIFA Fan Fest™**
This FIFA Fan Fest™ is the only one in South Africa situated on the beach. Can you think of a better way to spend a sunny day than watching great football and catching some waves in the warm Indian Ocean at half time?

**Durban FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** New Beach
- **Capacity:** 25 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 3.5km
- **Distance to airport:** 20km

**Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth FIFA Fan Fest™**
This FIFA Fan Fest™ is based at St Georges Park – the oldest park in Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth and the site of the second oldest cricket stadium in the country.

**Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** St Georges Park
- **Capacity:** 30 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 5km
- **Distance to airport:** 5km

The venue of numerous events in the past, the area around the Manguang Outdoor Sports Centre has undergone a significant upgrade in preparation for the 2010 events. Within the venue, five-a-side football pitches will be available, to ensure there will not be a shortage of activity. You will be able to get to and from the FIFA Fan Fest™ on a dedicated shuttle, or will be able to drive there yourself and park in a secure off-street parking area within walking distance from the stadium. There will also be transport from the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium to the FIFA Fan Fest™.

**Mangaung/Bloemfontein FIFA Fan Fest™**
The Mangaung/Bloemfontein FIFA Fan Fest™ will be located at the Mangaung Outdoor Sports Centre in the township of Rocklands, Mangaung/Bloemfontein.

**Mangaung/Bloemfontein FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Mangaung Outdoor Sports Centre
- **Capacity:** 20 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 12km
- **Distance to airport:** 15km

The venue of the annual Innibos Arts Festival, an event which attracts over 100 000 festival goers over a three-day period, Bergvlam High School is a well-known large events arena. Following a significant upgrade of its facilities, the venue will provide a fantastic platform for the FIFA Fan Fest™.

**New Beach FIFA Fan Fest™**
Located just outside the Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth FIFA Fan Fest™, the Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth FIFA Fan Fest™ provides a unique backdrop for the Mangaung fan experience.

**New Beach FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth FIFA Fan Fest™
- **Capacity:** 30 000-60 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 5km
- **Distance to airport:** 32km

The Polokwane FIFA Fan Fest™ will be the venue for the FIFA Fan Fest™ during the 2010 World Cup™. Known as the location of the annual Innibos Arts Festival, an event which attracts over 100 000 festival goers over a three-day period, Bergvlam High School is a well-known large events arena. Following a significant upgrade of its facilities, the venue will provide a fantastic platform for the FIFA Fan Fest™.

**Polokwane FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Bergvlam High School
- **Capacity:** 30 000-60 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 5km
- **Distance to airport:** 15km

The Polokwane FIFA Fan Fest™ will provide a fantastic platform for the gathered crowds. There will be both seat- and standing options, with great views of the giant screens. Hospitality packages will also be available for those of you who wish to enjoy a more exclusive viewing experience.

**Rustenburg FIFA Fan Fest™**
The Rustenburg FIFA Fan Fest™ is based at Fields College, a short distance from the city centre, with the Rustenburg Kloof as a picturesque background for the gathered crowds. With a capacity of more than 20 000 people, the venue will be able to cater for those of you who aren’t lucky enough to get your hands on one of the elusive match tickets.

**Rustenburg FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Fields College
- **Capacity:** 20 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 13km
- **Distance to airport:** 175km

The Mangaung/Bloemfontein FIFA Fan Fest™ will be located at the Mangaung Outdoor Sports Centre in the township of Rocklands, Mangaung/Bloemfontein. A 15-minute drive from the centre of the city, Rocklands will provide a unique African beer-drinking experience for fans. There will be both seating and standing options, with great views of the giant screens. Hospitality packages will also be available for those of you who wish to enjoy a more exclusive viewing experience.

**Rustenburg FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Mangaung Outdoor Sports Centre
- **Capacity:** 20 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 12km
- **Distance to airport:** 15km

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**Rustenburg FIFA Fan Fest™ key facts:**
- **Venue:** Bergvlam High School
- **Capacity:** 30 000-60 000
- **Opening dates:** All match-playing days of FIFA World Cup™
- **Opening hours:** 10:00 to late
- **Distance to stadium:** 5km
- **Distance to airport:** 32km

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LOCAL TALENT WELCOMES WORLD CUP STAGE

South Africa’s night life can rival anywhere in the world, and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ is set to offer so much more than just some great sporting action.

Focusing the eyes of the world on the southern tip of Africa, the FIFA World Cup™ is an exciting opportunity for some of South Africa’s top musical talent. With millions of international tourists expected to make the trip to the Rainbow Nation later this year, young artists and bands across the country are eager to perform for a willing global audience.

Brimming with talent, the South African music scene remains one of the world’s most untapped resources – now it will get its chance to shine. Three South African groups hoping to make their mark during the upcoming festivities are Taxi Violence, D7 and Fox Comet.

All three acts recently performed at the legendary Up the Creek music festival, and after leaving their fans cheering for more, are looking to make the most of the epic opportunity the tournament is serving up for them.

“2010 is going to be a great thing for South Africa. There is going to be a huge buzz around the whole country,” says Fox Comet lead singer Rob Coutts.

Fox Comet, an exciting up-and-coming funk-rock band that burst onto the local scene in 2009, is keen to show the world what they can do. "It’s going to be crazy and we’re going to enjoy every minute of it,” says Coutts. “Hopefully we’ll get to play to an international audience at some great venues.

“We’ve had talks with the Harley-Davidson club in Cape Town about being involved with them. They’re a base for fans from the Netherlands so hopefully we can win over some Dutch supporters for ourselves as well.

“We’ve also been approached by people organising some big parties in Long Street, which is awesome. There are so many parties, so many festivals, we’re keen to be a part of the vibe.”

Louis Nel, the drummer of the popular rock band Taxi Violence, says he and his bandmates are also looking forward to being a part of the ‘World Cup mania’ when it hits South African shores.

“It is exciting,” he says. “There is so much going on and getting involved with the parties, fan gatherings, the after parties – that’s where we want to be. All around the country there are going to be awesome events taking place. It’s an opportunity to be seen by the world.”

Taxi Violence is Nel, George van der Spuy, Rian Zietsman and Jason Ling. Formed in 2004, they are a band very much on the rise in South Africa.

“Our main focus is entertainment,” says Nel. “We always do our best to give people their money’s worth and put on a great show. This year we’re hoping to take it up a notch.”

Something a little different, mixing in beat-boxing and fresh harmonies, are D7 – another act eager to make an impression on the World Cup social scene.

An impressive a cappella group, D7 have shared the stage with a number of South Africa’s top performers in recent times, including Goldfish and Just Jinjer.

Looking ahead to the 2010 tournament, the band is keen to ‘test’ themselves in front of a global audience.

“It’s really exciting – it’s a big test,” said band member Shiraz Jogee. “All the hotels and venues are going to be filled up with international tourists and it’ll be good to see how they react to our music and that feedback is massive. This year is hopefully going to be huge for us.

“During the World Cup we’re going up to the Grahamstown festival and then heading back to Cape Town to get involved in the festivities there.

“We are involved in a lot of corporate functions and events so during the World Cup we’ll be doing a lot of that. We’ve got a regular gig on the rooftop of the Grand Daddy Hotel, and a couple other nice World Cup gigs we’re excited to be a part of as well.”

And regarding the football? All three groups are firmly behind the host nation.

“Probably Spain [will be my second choice] but definitely it’s South Africa all the way,” said Shiraz.

[We’re supporting] any African team,” insists Nel. “Obviously we’re behind Bafana Bafana but hopefully someone can do the continent proud!”

“Naturally we’re behind Bafana. It’s going to be awesome,” said Coutts.
MAKARAPA MANIA

While the vuvuzela has quickly gained world notoriety, the makarapa is another uniquely South African football mainstay creating jobs in the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ host country.

On the outskirts of the Johannesburg CBD there is a district called Newtown, the focal point of an urban regeneration programme spanning the last six years. If one stops outside one of its most famously refurbished buildings, The Mills, and takes a walk to the back of the building, what awaits is a sports fan’s wonderland. Hundreds upon hundreds of makarapas (the modified, decorated miners’ helmet unique to South African football fans) fill the numerous shelves, cover the walls and lie on tables; being bent, sprayed, painted and dried. The enormous display wall carries iconic Constitutional Court building in Johannesburg and started this makarapa business, Newtown Projects, in October 2008. After listening to a discussion on radio one morning regarding what small businesses were doing for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Wygers realised that there was not enough being done to create a unique or iconic product for the tournament.

“I was in my office and saw a makarapa sitting there, one we had made before we bought this building, and so I spoke to two colleagues of mine in Durban and we decided to make these for the World Cup,” Wygers recalls.

Newtown Projects is based on the idea of creating large numbers of iconic makarapas, but retaining the hand-painted images, a unique aspect of the product. “After looking at how a makarapa is made we realised there are two pinch points in the process: cutting and painting. So if you can get rid of the pinch point of cutting them, which is the most labour intensive part of the whole process, you can up the numbers,” he says.

Wygers and his associates eventually stumbled across a robotic arm – similar to the ones used in the motor industry – to do the job. The most difficult patterns the machine will cut in less than a minute, but the quickest patterns it cuts in less than a minute.

This means that the robot can turn out hundreds of makarapas in a large array of designs each day. For Wygers this means he can offer more people employment, a key driver behind the starting of the company: “If you are only able to cut ten makarapas a day, then you are only able to employ two painters. But if you are able to cut 800 a day, you are able to supply enough work to employ 50 or a 100 people a day. That thing can run for 24 hours, and it can cut 800 to 1,000 makarapas a day, so we can never employ enough people.”

At the moment 35 people are employed by Newtown Projects, but by the time the tournament starts the company will be aiming at having a staff of 40 to 50 people. “What we really wanted to get out of this business, was not only to do something with an iconic South African product, but at the top of the list was job creation. This is hugely important,” says Wygers.

Some local tour operators are already seeing the benefits of such an offering. “We had a guy in here the other day who does corporate travel packages and he is bringing a bunch of people over for the World Cup and they need to be doing things while not watching matches. So one of his ideas was to bring them here to make their own makarapas, with our guys teaching them how to do it,” Wygers says. With plans to expand into the American sports market through baseball and American football as well as into other sports such as rugby, demand is sure to grow.

The backbone of Newtown Projects are the painters who make the makarapas so unique with their talented eyes and brushes. Thomas ‘TJ’ Jabulani has been working at Newtown Projects since April last year, and has become the most senior base-painter on the team.

“I was working at the airport before this, I was spray-painting, working on the cars and vehicles, logos and touch-up paint. I like it here, I enjoy the work and the people, and now I have my own Orlando Pirates makarapa,” he says.

Daniel Molokomme is a 27-year-old artist and says: “I started as a base-painter because I wasn’t good with the brushes yet. I worked my way up, helping the artists when big orders came in. I enjoy art, I want to see my makarapas out there with a couple of friends. I want to see my makarapas in the stands, and one day people will recall ‘Hey this guy did something amazing!’”
**SOCCER IN THE CITY**

Cape Town is a city rich in football history – as a tour of the city highlights.

The air is clean and crisp; cold but pleasant. The view from Signal Hill seems to go on forever, taking in all the sights: Robben Island, Green Point Stadium, the V&A Waterfront, the Cape Town CBD, its historical buildings, the Cape Flats, and over the right shoulder, the majestic Table Mountain with its early morning cloud cover: the famous ‘table cloth’.

Standing on the Hill, tour guide Michael Letlala, takes a broad look at soccer in the city, from the 1800s until the present.

This is the start of the Coffeebeans Routes Soccer Tour, an introductory journey to the world of soccer in Cape Town, past, present and future.

Second stop is Ikamva, the home of Premier Soccer League club Ajax Cape Town in Parow, to the north of the city. A guided tour introduces one to the club’s history and some of its successes, as well as its strong focus on youth, community and development.

The visit is a unique opportunity to get inside a working professional club, one with an “open-door policy”, something that “is very different to Europe”, says club Community Scheme Coordinator Riaad Khan. But perhaps the highlight of the tour is a visit to Khayelitsha. With a population of close to two million people it is the second largest township in South Africa, and home to a very special place nestled between rows of tin shacks in the grounds of Ikusi Primary School.

This is the home of the Chris Campbell Memorial field, a FIFA level two artificial pitch, as well as the headquarters of the Ambitious Youth of Khayelitsha (AYK). AYK is an initiative of twelve young men aged 19 to 29 who started the AYK Crime Prevention League to keep young people out of shebeens (township bars) and on the soccer field.

Faced with a lack of resources to pursue further study, members of the group spent most of their time hanging around on the streets until one day they were invited by a lecturer at a local medical care institution to attend a workshop.

“When we saw that workshop on sexual abuse, HIV and crime,” says an enthusiastic Andile Gqwavuza (21), “we saw that these are things happening in our own community but these were things we were mostly ignoring.”

Together they approached other community organisations and arranged to use the field. Just over a year old, the project has grown amazingly fast, and now holds weekly tournaments, combined with educational workshops around issues of gender abuse and HIV. The local South African Police Service has reportedly noted a drop in crime since the project has been running.

The minibus’s final stop is inside a deserted parking lot outside a small, unassuming building. This is the workshop of Makoya Makaraba – “our world headquarters”, jokes founder Mike Souter.

Makoya Makaraba is a small business that produces hand-made makarapas, hats traditionally worn by South African soccer fans.

Something of a social entrepreneur, Souter’s is one of only two businesses in the country that commercially produce makarapas. With a core of ten staff, the business’s main objective is job creation, but Souter says also wants his staff to be “part of the World Cup, so that they can show their creativity”.

Souter has had orders from cricket and rugby teams with requests coming from as far as Canada by interested ice hockey teams.

Michael Stohr, president of Music Africa, a non-profit community-based organisation promoting African music in Canada, is at the workshop to pick up his personalised makarapa.

“This is the most visual example of South African soccer,” Stohr enthuses. “It is what we are going to visualise when we think of South African soccer in future, this and the vuvuzela. It’s absolutely beautiful.”

Dave Whitley, an English travel journalist and soccer fanatic, says that the tour opened the world of South African soccer to him, a world he says is relatively unknown to most of his countrymen.

Whitley particularly enjoyed meeting the AYK youngsters who, he says, showed the real love that South Africans have for the game. “You hear the phrase ‘soccer is life’ often but when these kids say it you know its true,” he says. “Soccer here is not just a rope to cling on to but a real way out.”

With its magnificent new stadium so close to all that is special about Cape Town, the city’s link with football is indelibly entwined.
SOUTH AFRICA
NATURAL WONDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is one of the most naturally beautiful countries on earth, with a magnificent unspoiled coastline, prolific wildlife and dramatic scenery. Between matches, there is a wide choice of au natural experiences to enjoy close to all the host cities.

JOHANNESBURG – NATURAL HERITAGE AND WILDLIFE
It is the heartbeat of the nation, yet just a half hour from the city you can enjoy a landscape of rolling hills and diverse wildlife. In the Magaliesberg lies the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site and Sterkfontein Caves – including the Wonder Cave adorned with artful natural stalagmites and stalactites. Canopy rides between canyons in the mountains are an adrenaline rush, or you could hot air balloon or take a vintage flight over the landscape instead.

For wildlife lovers there’s the Johannesburg Zoo, world renowned for its impressive collection of African wildlife, including rare white lions. See: www.magaliesmeander.co.za; www.maroopeng.co.za; www.lionpark.com; www.jhizoo.org.za; www.elephantsanctuary.co.za; www.balloon.co.za

TSHWANE/PRETORIA – CRATERS AND KING CHEETAHS
The National Zoological Gardens here are the largest in Africa with 4 700 animals in residence, so you don’t need to leave South Africa’s capital to see wildlife. The renowned De Wildt Cheetah Sanctuary also has rare offerings of African wild dog and king cheetahs, plus many more close encounters with endangered wildlife. Ezemvelo Nature Reserve, close by, has exceptional birding and general wildlife viewing in its natural habitat, and there is a wide range of overnight accommodation too.

Close to Pretoria is also the 220 000 year-old Tswaing meteorite impact crater – one of the best preserved bowl-shape craters on earth, and a true natural wonder. See: www.zoo.ac.za; www.dewildt.co.za; www.emzvelo.co.za; www.diamondroute.co.za

CAPE TOWN – TABLE MOUNTAIN AND MUCH MORE
Go up iconic Table Mountain by cable car and admire the Mother City, but don’t forget to visit craggy Cape Point, which boasts the cleanest air in Africa and the evocative title The Cape of Storms. Boulders Beach has a permanent colony of quirky African penguins and the Two Oceans Aquarium, in the city, is home to an incredible collection of marine life. Of course, a boat ride and tour of historical Robben Island shouldn’t be missed, and neither should a day trip through rolling vineyards that surround the city, with wine tasting at countless beautiful wine estates.

The West Coast National Park is less than an hour from Cape Town and protects endemic frilly fynbos and plenty of wildlife. This is home to prolific antelope and bird life. Large herds of eland and bat eared foxes are special attractions. See: www.units Oaks, Giant’s Castle and many others – and it’s also the home of ancient San rock art and plentiful wildlife. KZN is rhino territory, but across the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife reserves of Thala, Hluhluwe, Imfolozini and many others, the full Big Five can be seen too.

The languid lake complex of St Lucia or iSimangaliso Wetland Park, up the north coast from Durban, is another World Heritage Site and home to a myriad wildlife and birds. Humpback whales can also be seen, virtually year round. See: www.kznwildlife.com; www.advantagetours.co.za

NELSON MANDELA BAY/PORT ELIZABETH – SUNSHINE COAST
Known for its idyllic beaches, this coastline boasts year round sunshine and the longest wave in the world, at Cape St Francis. You can swim in the warm Indian Ocean at Kings or Hobie beaches or watch surfers in action at Jeffrey’s Bay, just 45 minutes from the city. Whale watching season is from June too, and a boat ride in Algoa Bay may yield sightings of up to four different whale species, and uncountable dolphins.

Addo Elephant National Park close to the city boasts the Big Seven: elephant, buffalo, rhino, lion, leopard, whales and great white sharks. It’s also known for having the best up close elephant viewing in southern Africa. Tsitsikamma National Park, about 90 minutes west of the city, is a true natural wonder.
marine park with a scuba diving trail and lush coastal forest. Many adventure sports such as black water tubing, bungee jumping and treetop canopy rides are offered in the area. See: www.raggycharters.co.za; www.stormsriver.com

MANGAUNG/BLOEMFONTEIN – DELIGHTFUL INTERIOR
Golden Gate Highlands National Park is the Free State’s most magnificent offering. Towering sandstone cliffs, dinosaur fossils and grass-loving antelope and zebra can all be found here, along with unusual bird life. There is also flyfishing for trout in the cool surrounding streams. This area gets really cold in winter and snow is even possible, turning the majestic landscape into a white wonderland. There’s also hiking along well-known trails with various caves to explore. Overnighting in the park, or one of the surrounding accommodations, makes for an ideal two or three-day nature getaway.

Or you could head for the mighty Gariep Dam to enjoy watersports and fishing, while the Vaal River offers canoeing and kayaking expeditions for adventure sports lovers. See: www.sanparks.org

NELSPRUIT – BIG FIVE TERRITORY
The iconic Kruger National Park is right on the doorstep – for day trips or longer stays. It’s a natural Eden, with the Big Five and any other African bird or animal you can think of, all seen from your vehicle window. Towering mountains also epitomise the area, along with magnificent waterfalls – Berlin, Lisbon, Mac Mac and Bridal Veil to name a few. Blyde River Canyon and God’s Window are must sees if you love dramatic landscapes. The area also has some of the finest rock climbing and paragliding offered in Africa, while Kaapmhoop is home to wild horses and panoramic views over the area. See: www.sanparks.org; www.mpumalanga.com

POLOKWANE – DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES AND BIG GAME
Here you are still in easy reach of the Kruger National Park for an overnight visit, but the Waterberg is another excellent wildlife destination with prolific game and bird life.

Nearby Mapungubwe National Park lies in an inspiring rugged landscape of sandstone sculptures and baobabs, with the Limpopo River running through it. This is the site of southern Africa’s first kingdom, and where the famous golden rhino was discovered. From the park, you can simultaneously see Zimbabwe and Botswana too. Right next door, on the De Beers Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve, are wild dog and lion tracking trips, done from a vehicle and using telemetry.

See: www.sanparks.org; www.diamondroute.co.za; email: venetia.reserve@debeersgroup.com

RUSTENBURG – OUTDOOR DELIGHTS
Within easy reach of the city is the Vredefort Dome meteorite crater, which is bigger than the eye can see. For wildlife, Pilanesberg has it all – the Big Five and much more – and Madikwe Game Reserve also boasts the Big Five, plus endangered black rhino and rare wild dogs. Kgawasane Mountain Reserve is ideal for daytrips to see rare sable.

Hartebeespoort Dam is the place to go to enjoy watersports, or even ride a cable car for an aerial view over the surrounds. See: www.tourismnorthwest.co.za
ZAKUMI SAYS

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