

twenty ten WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA

ANITA VENEZIA

When the first whistle blows on June 11 to the last kick on July 11, 2010 South Africa will be the epicenter of the World Cup Soccer event. Forty six million proud South Africans of the rainbow nation will host the first ever premium event to take place on African soil.

The 2010 World Cup South Africa is sponsored by FIFA-Fédération Internationale de Football Association—that was founded in 1904 by Frenchman Robért Guirin. FIFA is the soccer world's supreme body whose mission is the responsibility to reach out and touch the world using football as a symbol of hope and integration.

The soccer event is only a few months shy of three years and South Africa is already electrified with anticipation. Plans are in full force preparing world class stadium venues in nine cities with 32 teams that will play 64 games for one glorious prize. Three million tickets will go on sale next year with one third allocated for local South African fans, one third for foreign visitors and one third for the FIFA family, sponsors and teams.

As of August 2007, FIFA's world ranking for the top five teams are Brazil, Argentina, Italy, France and Germany. Albeit the South African National Team Bafana Bafana (The Boys) is presently ranked 61st of 208 they automatically qualify to compete by the very virtue of being the Host nation. The Bafana Bafana National Team is ranked 14th of 53 in the All African Competition. Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and is South Africa's number one sporting event with 1.8 million registered players. It has the largest television audience and the greatest number of spectators with a strong multi-team infrastructure that lead the national team to qualify for World Cup finals in 1998 and 2002.



**IN 1991 THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
(SAFA) WAS FORMED
WHEN THE COUNTRY
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ED BRINGING EQUAL
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FOREFRONT FOR THE
WORLD'S PREMIER
SPORTING EVENT.**

The legendary Brazilian soccer coach Carlos Alberto Perreira has signed a four year contract for Rand 100 million (\$13.5 million approx.) as head coach for the SAFA National Team Bafana Bafana. Parreira has taken Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Brazil through World Cup events and the 1994 World Cup win for Brazil.

The National Team Bafana Bafana Squad is made up from various clubs such as the Mamelodi Sundowns, Ajax Cape Town, Golden Arrows and the storied Kaiser Chiefs and Orlando Pirates. The two latter teams are the nation's favorites and have a huge following. In 2001 when the two teams played to a packed stadium about 30,000 spectators without tickets stormed the gates and fences and their stampede caused the loss of 43 lives.

South Africa aggressively sought the World Cup event and had confidence that the country has sufficient infrastructure to support and attract the international event. FIFA chose South Africa over other African nations citing transportation, medical facilities, telecommunications, hotels, sports infrastructure and a passion for the game. The ten stadiums for event venues are spread over eight provinces in nine cities; two in Johannesburg and one each in Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Rustenburg, Pretoria, Polokwane and Nelspruit. Five existing stadiums will be refurbished and upgraded and five brand new stadiums are being built for a whopping total of R20 billion (\$2.7 billion).

By 2010 the FIFA World Cup event will be live on Mobile Phones with MTN the South African cellular operator in Africa. The global FIFA sponsor, MTN invested \$65 million to secure the right to broadcast exclusive mobile phone content.

FIFA awarded South Africa a \$10 million grant to rebuild the national soccer squad for the 2010 event. Millions of Rand will be used to upgrade rail systems, transportation, airports, hotels and restaurants and state of the art electronic security systems. The Kruger National Park System which is larger than Wales and ancillary privately-run reserves are all gearing up for visitors who want to see, not only the Big Five, but also the rarest and spectacular fauna and flora of Southern Africa. SAN PARKS, the South African National Park System, has recently installed an online "Real Time" accommodation availability reservation site with various campsites, cottages and lodges with some overnight stays as low as \$17 per night per person. Reservations are limited and absolutely necessary to enter any of the parks or reserves. *Visit:*

www.SANPARKS.org, www.Kruger-NationalPark.com, www.CapeTown.gov.za

SOUTH AFRICA

ALIVE WITH POSSIBILITY

The country lies between 22 and 35 degrees south flanked by the cool Atlantic Ocean at the west and the warm Indian Ocean at the east and meet at the southern point of Cape Agulhas. June and July are winter months with mild temperatures and fair amounts of rain. The coastline is 1,739 miles with a total land mass of 471,011 square miles (about twice the size of France). It is a country of eight provinces and a population of 47.4 million with 79.5% Black, 8.9% colored mixed-race, 2.5% Indian /Asian and 9.2% White. The Republic of South Africa is a multi-party democracy with a GNP of \$540.8 billion. Inflation is 3.9% and \$1 equals R7.37 (Rand).

The FIFA World Cup event will create 129,000 jobs, contribute R21 billion to the country's GNP and generate R7.2 billion in government taxes. It is anticipated that 350,000 to 500,000 visitors will spend R9.8 billion during June and July 2010. FIFA is said to have potential earning revenue of \$3.1 billion in corporate sponsorship and broadcasting rights. FIFA reports the earnings will be approximately double the \$1.8 billion earned in the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The rainbow country is divided into four major Black ethnic groups namely Nguni, Sotho, Shangaan- Tsonga and Venda. There are numerous sub-groups of which the Zulu and Xhosa (Nguni) are the largest. There are eleven official languages 6 of which are English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Venda and Swazi.

South Africa is already electrified with anticipation

Some of the most famous South Africans are: Nelson Mandela (iconic symbol of world peace), Cecie Rhodes (Statesman), J.R.R. Tolkien (Lord of the Rings), Christian Barnard (Heart Surgeon), Nadine Gordimer (Nobel Prize - Literature) Gary Player (Golf) Charlize Theron (Actress), Midge Pike (Jazz musician) and Garth Jowett PhD (The Democratic ART)

It can only be imagined how the youth of South Africa can almost touch the dream of seeing the World Cup event so close to their homes as they kick around soccer balls in the dry red African dust.

For information on FundaField, email: teamchallenge@fundafield.org

dreams in the dust

Two Danville teenage brothers have a dream for young African soccer players and have implemented a viable plan. Last year when Garrett and Kyle Weiss were at the 2006 World Cup in Germany, with their parents Greg and Lisa Weiss, they witnessed the intoxicating pure joy of the match between Iran and Angola. The small contingent of fanatic Angola fans went into rapture when Flavio scored the very first goal ever scored by Angola at a World Cup event. The 1-1 tie was celebrated with thunderous cheers and the blowing of vuvuzela horns. Garrett and Kyle were caught up in the moment of the contagious zeal of the Angolans. It was a well known fact that the country had very little funding for food and shelter let alone the financial support to send their team to the World Cup.

The brothers talked of a plan to help the youth in Africa with soccer. Their plan materialized into a non-profit 501(C) (3) FUNDaFIELD project in February 2007.

Garrett and Kyle's youthful acumen have surprised even their parents, Greg and Lisa Weiss who are enormously proud of their Monte Vista High School sons and the other students who have become part of the program. The two teenagers came up with the idea to sell 18,000 squares at one dollar per square to have enough funding to build a soccer field and provide equipment for African Student Soccer players.

While researching a suitable location and infrastructure possibilities the boys came across StudentMovementUSA.org headed by Saul Garlick in Washington D.C. The Student Movement for Real Change, a non-profit organization, was in the process of building the Mdluli High School for 500 students at the Hluvakani village in the Mpumalanga province near the town of Nelspruit. The Student Movement for Real Change is a hands-on group who has all their finances secured and works closely with the Buffelshoek Trust and the Telkom Foundation (a national telecommunications corpora-

tion). Microsoft has collaborated with the Trust to get 120 computers into centers with internet access in the schools.

FUNDaFIELD is working in tandem with the Students Movement group and the Trust to bring the soccer field to fruition in the near future. The soccer field will be graded, lined and fenced with goals, bleachers, lights and a scoreboard. The FUNDaFIELD idea to bring organized soccer to African youth got the attention of other young soccer playing teenagers in Danville who joined in the fundraising efforts. The young fundraising team is dedicated to enriching the lives of the less fortunate youth in Africa through sports.

Other students at Monte Vista High School have become part of the FUNDaFIELD.com family. Each of the 13 to 17 year old twelve students has raised \$500 towards their goal and have committed to many tireless hours of work and community awareness.

Garrett and Kyle Weiss are the co-founders who built the impressive website: www.FUNDaFIELD.com. The other team members are Max Mendes, Team Manager, Mitchell Stein, Equipment Manager and Directors: Cameron Naderi,, Chris Galley, Megan Mendes, Justin Walz, Kevin Vaughan, Ryan McNutt and Kelley McNutt a sophomore at the University of Oregon. The team consists of Monte Vista High School students except for Megan Mendes who is a student at Diablo Vista, Kelley McNutt who is in college and Kelsey Gunderson of Nevada.

FUNDaFIELD has just released that the total raised for the soccer field at the Mdluli High School in Mpumalanga has reached \$10,077. The month of September marks the Fifth Annual "Youth Soccer Month" (3.2 million players) celebrating the sport in America and if each reader donated \$1 per square towards the completion of the first soccer field, the young South African students could be having more than just soccer dreams as they kick balls around in the red African dust.



South African students could be having more than just soccer dreams



PHOTOS:

Pg 51) Two African boys wearing Danville Mustang Soccer shirts.

This page) Top & Middle photos: School Children in South Africa. Bottom) The Danville Team: Back row, L-R: Megan and Max Mendes, JP Scatterday, Garrett Weiss, Mitch Stein, Kelly McNutt, Cameron Naderi, Chris Galley. Front row, L-R: Ryan McNutt, Tim Scatterday, Kyle Weiss.

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Photos courtesy Hilary Wallis

