



SOUTH AFRICAN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



SAFA Newsletter

2023 - The year
so far

SAFA Official Newsletter

The Official Update



South Africa, your support
is our energy.

2023



Vision

· To be the powerhouse of football in Africa, inspiring the nation through international success at the highest level on a consistent basis.

Mission

The South African Football Association as a governing body of football in South Africa is committed to:

- Promoting and facilitating the development of football through infrastructural and training initiatives;
- Engaging in a proactive dialogue with the government to generate a partnership in recognition of football as a national asset
- Creating an image as being a stable, progressive and innovative institution;
- Creating a mutually beneficial relationship with the corporate world;
- Contribute to Africa's ascendancy in world football through the hosting of major events in Africa, while aspiring and striving to become a leading football nation

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The month of August is known globally as the Women's Month and on the sporting front, it lived up to its billing.

Our senior women's national team, Banyana Banyana made history by reaching the second round of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia.

Entering the World Cup on the back of winning the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in Morocco last year, pressure was on the African champions to deliver at the highest level and coach Desiree Ellis' team didn't disappoint.

Having narrowly lost 1-2 to Sweden in the opening match, Banyana Banyana were unfortunate not to have collected all the three points against Argentina in a game they eventually had to settle for a 2-2 draw. That set the tone for a must-win match against Italy and the 3-2 triumph that assured South Africa of historic passage into the Round of 16. Though our girls lost 0-2 to the Netherlands in the second round encounter, Banyana Banyana showed they are on the right trajectory and that they are ready to get into the mix with the global football giants.

We are extremely proud of our girls' achievements and the spin offs which are to be accrued from this feat will be felt within our football fraternity for years to come.

The achievement will also boost the country's bid for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in which South Africa is among those vying for this proposition having officially submitted the Bidding Agreement to FIFA. In the meantime, we have briefed among other stakeholders, the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture the Honourable Zizi Kodwa, SASCOC and other relevant authorities about our intention to bring the women's biggest showpiece to this country in 2027.

We have also appointed Tumi Dlamini as the Bid Chair and Russell Paul as the CEO of the bid. The two (Dlamini and Paul) were in Sydney, Australia where we underscored our readiness to host the next FIFA Women's World Cup. The symposium in Sydney was also attended by other bidding countries that include a joint European bid by Belgium, Germany and Netherlands, Brazil from South America and another joint bid by Mexico and the USA.

Here is what remains to be done going forward:

- 8 December 2023 - Member Associations to submit their bids to the world football governing body, FIFA.
- February 2024 - FIFA to organise on-site inspection visits to bidding countries.
- May 2024 - Publication of FIFA's Bid Evaluation Report and to have designation of bids by the FIFA Council.
- 17 May 2024 - Appointment of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 host(s) by the FIFA Congress.

So while these are exciting times for the country, a lot of work needs to be done as there is little time to play around with. The country needs this event to move away from the depressing environment currently engulfing society. Talking of the Women's World Cup bid, I am glad to say the football family is excited about the prospects of the country hosting the 2027 women's event as was shown by excitement during the SAFA Congress held at the Emperors' Palace in Ekurhuleni. The Congress was attended by among others, FIFA and CAF delegates, the chair of the Sports portfolio committee and some provincial government delegates.

Looking back at the month of August, I am glad to say we are headed for exciting times once again. With Bafana Bafana next in line when they go to the AFCON finals in Ivory Coast, the nation's optimism is justified.



“A family is like a forest.
When you are outside, it is dense.
When you are inside, you see that
each tree has its place.”

- African Proverb

How Banyana Banyana wrote their name into the South African football history books



Banyana Banyana may not have won the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, but coach Desiree Ellis' charges left an indelible mark on an exciting tournament that will be remembered for years to come.

Ellis' players wrote their name into the history books after they became the first ever South African National football team, men or women, to make it out of the group stages of a FIFA tournament. The South African senior women's team defeated Italy 3-2 in their last group match to qualify for the Round of 16, where they unfortunately went down 0-2 to the Netherlands. Those were big moments not just for Banyana Banyana, but also the country and the African continent at large.

While there were players who returned to the Women's World Cup stage for a second time, there were others who made their maiden appearances at the event, and they are: Hildah Magaia (debut and goal against Sweden, and second goal against Italy), Wendy Shongwe (youngest member of the team and made her debut against Italy, which was her first ever cap), Noxolo Cesane (made her debut against Argentina), Nomvula Kgoale (made her debut against Sweden), Melinda Kgadiete (debut against Argentina), Gabriela Salgado (debut against Sweden), Karabo Dhlamini (debut against Argentina), Bongeka Gamede (debut against Sweden), Robyn Moodaly (debut against Italy) and Tiisetso Makhubela (debut against Argentina).

The World Cup camp started on an uncomfortable note and was dominated by a pay dispute between the players and the South African Football Association (SAFA). But after everything eventually fell into place, the team focused on the task at hand and achieved their number one mandate set before the tournament, which was to qualify for the Round of 16 for the first time. There is no doubt that Ellis and her charges made their mark not only in Australia and New Zealand, but also around the world.

Ellis and her players communicated in several media engagements that during the team's maiden appearance in France 2019, they did not know what to expect at this level. But their return to the global stage in 2023 was a lot different and it showed that they have learnt some important lessons.

They have won the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in the intervening years and gained a lot of experience while playing against strong opposition.

So the African Champions were certainly not overawed when they arrived at the World Cup and they went toe-to-toe with higher ranked Sweden in their opening encounter of the tournament, in a game that boosted confidence despite the 1-2 defeat.



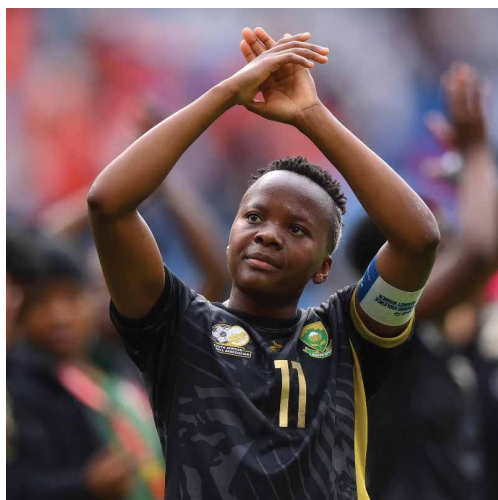
Heads may have dropped among the fans when the team surrendered a 2-0 lead against Argentina in their second group game to allow the South Americans to make a comeback and salvage a 2-2 draw. But that did not stop the players from believing that a historic place in the Round of 16 was still possible. The final group game against Italy will go down as one of the most talked about games at the FIFA Women's World Cup as it proved to be a defining moment for Banyana Banyana. They beat the European side 3-2 in a dramatic match that sent bouts of euphoria across the continent.

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa said the moment lifted "our spirits and made us immensely proud." SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan described it as a moment that brought joy not only to 60 million South Africans, but to the African continent as a whole. "Beating Italy (3-2), a country ranked several places above us, showed the determination, professionalism and focus of the African champions," Dr Jordaan said. COSAFA said: "Coach Desiree Ellis and her team have made our region proud." Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Zizi Kodwa, Premier Soccer League chairman Dr Irvin Khoza, and many others around the world also sent their congratulations to the team.

"Banyana Banyana have done it! What a performance. This is a historic moment for South African football. This is a historic moment for women's sport in the country. Round of 16, here we come," said Minister Kodwa.

"The Banyana Banyana victory answered the question "how do you win under such scrutiny and pressure?" The answer is consciousness – you need to be conscious all the time. There is simply no place to hide, and where there is no place to hide, honesty is the only sustainable answer. Well done Banyana Banyana," said Dr Khoza.

The journey of Banyana Banyana at the FIFA Women's World Cup is that of Faith, Perseverance, Determination, and hunger. The chapter is not closed yet and the world awaits in anticipation of what this Banyana Banyana Team will achieve next.



BANYANA BANYANA WC RESULTS			
	2 - 1 FT		
SWEDEN	MAGAIA 48' ROLFO 65' BLESTEDT 90'	SOUTH AFRICA	
	2 - 2 FT		
ARGENTINA	MOTLHALO 30' KGATLANA 66' BIRAIN 74' NUNEZ 79'	SOUTH AFRICA	
	3 - 2 FT		
SOUTH AFRICA	ORSI 32' (OG) CARUSO 11' (P) , 74' MAGAIA 67' KGATLALA 90+ 2	ITALY	
	3 - 2 FT		
NETHERLANDS	ROORD 9' BEERENSTEYN 68'	ITALY	



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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THANK YOU SOUTH AFRICA

Five FIFA Women's World Cup highlights from the Banyana Banyana Media Officer's desk

1) How the tournament forced the whole camp to grow:

From the players to the members of the technical and support staff, there is a higher level of expectation that the whole team is expected to step up to if the camp is to deal with the intense pressure that comes with the demands of a tournament like the FIFA World Cup. Adjusting to this demand and expectation was a highlight because no one had to tell us that it was time to step up. The Banyana Banyana team I was with at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in Morocco last year was not the same one I travelled with to the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in the beginning of July 2023. The mindset was different, the hunger was different and the atmosphere was different.

2) Order and professionalism from the organizers:

When I became a Media Officer at the South African Football Association (SAFA), there was no step-by-step guideline on how things should be done - I had to learn on my feet while working at different tournaments on the continent and in other parts of the world. Part of this included being always well-informed about everything and anything related to the world of the media. The Media Officer's role needs one to not only be proactive but to be also versatile, always ready to adapt to changing circumstances. It is a broad field and FIFA was aware of this, and it is for this reason that the governing body provided TMO's with guidance, and the tools needed to make the job easier.

3) The growth of women's football:

The sight of the stadiums packed to the rafters in Australia and New Zealand, fans filling up the fan parks and the fervor that is often delivered by big tournaments gave me goosebumps. The women's game is growing at a rapid pace and it achieved an even higher level in this tournament, reaching a noticeable turning point. It was quite remarkable that Banyana Banyana continued to dominate the discussion back home and in other parts of the globe, despite the huge time difference. People were waking up in the early hours of the morning to watch the games and it was further proof that this tournament was bigger than all of us.

4) Impact of Banyana Banyana and rise in numbers:

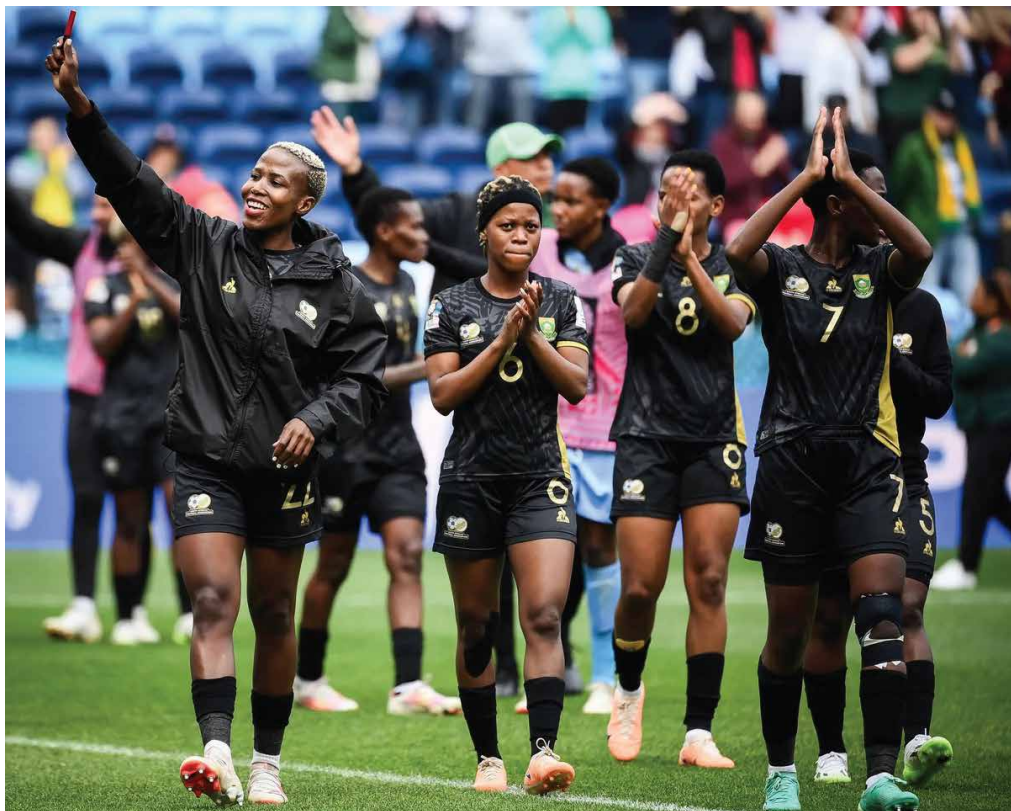
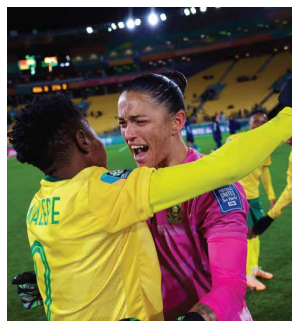
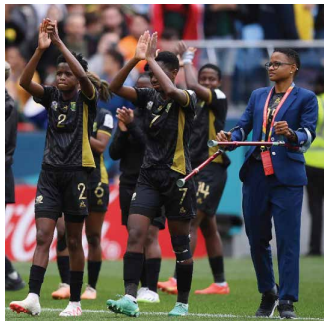
Numbers will always matter! When the tournament started Banyana Banyana was on +- 4000 followers on Instagram and post the World Cup the account is on 44 000 followers. Twitter grew from 183 000 followers to 218 000 followers, TikTok moved from 500 followers to almost 100 000 followers, Facebook went from 118 000 page likes to 151 000 and 171 000 followers to 274 000 followers.



The numbers are proof that more and more people know about Banyana Banyana and are interested in women's football.

5) Being part of history:

The feeling of passion and euphoria I felt when I served the team during their 2022 WAFCON march to the continental title in Morocco increased tenfold when Banyana Banyana made it to the Round of 16 at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. Being with the team from the start of the camp in Johannesburg in June, experiencing the emotional journey from South Africa to Australia and New Zealand, sharing the many ups and downs in camp in another part of the world, and taking my place in what was a family environment was priceless. It has been an incredible journey and this journey does not end here. This story is still being written.





Bafana Bafana qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations

Bafana Bafana qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire in January next year after beating Liberia 2-1 in Monrovia on March 2023.

The Nation sighed with relief as coach Hugo Broos' charges withstood the pressure during this tense qualifier to secure their tickets to the continental tournament.

Bafana Bafana were the first to get their name up on the stadium scoreboard after Zakhele Lepasa did well to shake off the attentions of the Liberia defenders to put the visitors in the lead in the 18th minute. Lepasa beat Liberia goalkeeper Tommy Songo's with a low shot after waltzing his way into the area.

But the home side drew level after captain William Jebor beat SA goalkeeper Ronwen Williams with a long-range effort in the 34th minute.

The two teams went to the halftime break still deadlocked at 1-1.

The South African senior national team restored the advantage when Mhllali Mayambela beat Songo's to put coach Broos' charges back in the lead in the 53rd minute.

They held on to the lead to ensure qualification to the continental tournament.

Broos' charges would keep the momentum going in the qualifiers when they beat FIFA World Cup semi-finalists Morocco 2-1 at a vociferous FNB Stadium in June 2023. The home side made their intentions clear very early in the game after racing to a 5th minute lead through Percy Tau. The South African senior men's team could have increased the lead on several occasions in the first half but had to settle for a 1-0 lead at halftime. They returned with added urgency in the second period and it was no surprise when Lepasa beat Morocco goalkeeper Monir Kajoui to double the lead from close range in the 48th minute. But the North Africans pulled a goal back through Hakim Ziyech in the 60th minute to ensure a thrilling final 30 minutes of the match.

The hosts could have found the back of the net on a number of occasions in the second half but eventually settled for the 2-1 win.



Lydia Monyepao new SAFA CEO

The South African Football Association (SAFA) appointed former COO Lydia Monyepao as CEO in May 2023.

Monyepao took over from Adv Tebogo Motlanthe, who quit the position with immediate effect due to personal reasons. SAFA President Dr Jordaan said having worked for the organisation in several positions, the former Banyana Banyana player and South Africa senior women's national team manager was well equipped for the job.

"We wish her all the best. Certainly at the SAFA Emergency Committee meeting, the decision was unanimous. Everyone agreed to the appointment of Lydia Monyepao as the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Football Association. So, congratulations, and you have to hit the ground running," said the SAFA President. Monyepao's first engagement was in Cape Town (on Tuesday, 9 May 2023) with the government to discuss South Africa's bid to host the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027.

"She knows all the deadlines (for South Africa's bid for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup) because she has been working on all these matters anyway, and it is nothing new."

In her acceptance speech, Monyepao said she was aware of the challenges of the new role but was up to the task. "It is big shoes that I am filling and I have to hit the ground running," she said.

"I am capable of hitting the ground running, I will accept the task and take the work forward. I am not naive in terms of what is required for this job. I know the challenges that surround any CEO of the South African Football Association, I am not blind to that.

"But as indicated, no job is easy and you have to take it as it comes and apply what you are good at, and what you are capable of. Thank you very much to the President and to the SAFA NEC for having confidence in me and my abilities. My CV will show you in terms of my previous experience and my educational, so I believe I am capable of this."

The CEO holds a Masters in Sports Management from Loughborough University in the UK, BCom Honours in Accounting (CTA) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Bachelor of Commerce from the University of the Witwatersrand, among others.

Former CEO Adv Motlanthe said he was leaving the Association in good hands, adding there was no bad blood with the SAFA hierarchy. He also said he had handed his signed resignation letter to the SAFA President and distanced himself from a letter that was circulated in the media at the time.

"It is indeed true that I have handed my resignation and I have sent a letter (to the SAFA President) that I have signed. The one which is on social media, I would like to categorically say it is not my letter and I do not know," he said. "Mine has a signature and has my reasons. My reasons are personal and private."

He thanked Dr Jordaan for the opportunity to lead such a big organisation like SAFA and said his relationship with the Association remains cordial.

"I don't have any bad blood with anyone, including the President. We worked very well with the President, he has been a father and he has guided me. It is just a personal decision that I have taken. I would like to thank the National Executive Committee, they have given me support, the regions, members and staff, I wish all of them all of the best.

"I support the bid for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup. We started with the process with me being there and I'm not divorcing myself from it. I will continue to support it from outside. As I said to the President, wherever he needs me I will be available. We are not leaving each other on bad terms as it has been painted out there. There is no bad blood. It is just a personal decision."

Dlamini, Paul announced to lead SA's 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup Bid Committee



The South African Football Association (SAFA) announced Tumi Dlamini as the chairperson of the country's 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup Bid Committee in June 2023.

South Africa is bidding to host the 2027 global tournament and will be up against Brazil, joint bids from Mexico and the United States of America, and the trio of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany.

Following a SAFA NEC meeting held in Nasrec on 17 June 2023, the Association's CEO Lydia Monyepao also confirmed the appointment of veteran administrator Russell Paul as the Bid Lead of the Committee. CAF Vice President Kanizat Ibrahim, FIFA Council member Isha Johansen and SAFA Vice President Anastasia Tschilas were announced as Bid Committee members. Former SAFA President Dr Molefi Oliphant was also announced as a member of the Committee. SAFA is also in the process of finalising the addition of more members to the Committee.

Dlamini is a member of the SAFA Governance Committee and has served in several football committees, including the CAF Governance Committee and 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee. She also served on the Board of the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations Organising Committee (AFCON).

A lawyer by profession, Dlamini is an admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa with a multi-disciplinary background in Corporate Law, African Development, public policy, facilitating strategic African and global partnerships and corporate governance. She was the first black woman to be appointed a partner by an international law firm in South Africa.

She is currently an Advisor to the African Peer Review Mechanism, an organ of the African Union (AU) where she leads and promotes corporate governance policies and initiatives on the African continent, and is also the Head of Global Relations and Partnerships. She has engaged with the private sector and governments at the highest level in several countries, including, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Egypt, Liberia, Uganda, South Africa, Namibia, Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia and several others. She is a strategic thinker who has amassed knowledge of the political, economic and regulatory dynamics across key markets in Africa and globally. She currently serves on several boards, including JSE-listed companies. She holds a Masters in Public Administration and Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, a B Social Sciences Degree and a postgraduate degree in LLB from the University of Cape Town.

Paul has a long history in football administration and was once a SAFA NEC member from the Western Cape. At SAFA, he worked as a manager for events before he was promoted to the position of general manager football business. He took over as SAFA Acting CEO in 2018 before resigning to take up the COO position at the Qatar FIFA World Cup last year. Upon returning home, SAFA identified him as the right person to spearhead the bid for the 2027 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Both Dlamini and Paul were part of a delegation that attended a workshop and observer programme hosted by FIFA this week for the bidding nations for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sydney, Australia, in August 2023.

The SAFA delegation, comprising of President Dr Danny Jordaan, SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao, Dlamini, Paul and SAFA Women's Head Romaney Pinnock, used the workshop to impress upon FIFA as to why it is important for South Africa to be awarded the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup.



Bafana Bafana and SAFA announce 10BET as Official Betting Partner

The South African Football Association (SAFA) officially announced global online sportsbook and games operator, 10bet South Africa, as the Official Betting Partner of the Senior Men's National Team in a four-year deal confirmed in July 2023.

This partnership marked an exciting milestone for both parties, as they joined forces to enhance the experience of fans and communities.

10bet South Africa said it was thrilled to work together with SAFA, as Bafana Bafana are an essential part of the country's lively sports culture and fan passion. Through this partnership, 10bet South Africa aims to be at the centre of fan engagement opportunities and create lasting impact through community initiatives.

"We are delighted to partner with 10bet South Africa. This is the beginning of a relationship between two ambitious and forward-thinking brands. We hope this partnership will help us bring fans the best possible product and experience and continue growing South African football," said SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao.

"This is an exciting partnership based on pride, passion, and love of the beautiful game. Bafana Bafana, an iconic brand that's at the heart of millions of South Africans and one that has played a pivotal role in bringing people together, generating excitement, and positively impacting communities is a perfect fit for our growing brand locally," said Michelle Henriques Colborne, Chief Revenue Officer at 10bet South Africa.

Bafana Bafana continue to play several international official and friendly matches at home and away in the coming weeks as coach Hugo Broos prepares for the Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire in January next year, and for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The South African senior men's national team coach says as he continues to fine-tune his squad, these matches will help get him closer to the kind of team he has in mind to represent the country in the coming major international competitions.



SAFA welcomes new partners Shield

The South African Football Association (SAFA) announced a new partnership with Shield, the Unilever South Africa deodorant brand, in July 2023.

Shield proudly partnered with SAFA for the next five years in line with the intention to bring in more sponsors for not just the Association, but also the South African Senior Women's National team, Banyana Banyana.

Shield was also announced as one of the official sponsors of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup that was held in Australia and New Zealand from 20 July 2023 to 20 Aug 2023.

"Bringing in more corporate sponsors on board, especially in the women's game, will assist us in our efforts to close the gender pay parity gap and also increase opportunities for Banyana Banyana to secure better opposition in order to remain competitive globally," said SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao.

"We also believe that the association with Unilever South Africa comes at the perfect time when we are bidding to host the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027. Should our dream become a reality, we are confident that this partnership will grow bigger and stronger, with women's football in this country ultimately the biggest winner."



In order to also accelerate the professionalisation of women's football on the continent, more funding through sponsorship remains imperative and SAFA will continue to engage the corporate world to come to the party and be part of the fastest growing phenomena that is women's football.

**RULED AFRICA.
NOW THE WORLD.**



**BANYANA
ARE
NOT
DONE
YET**



SAFA and Castle Lager extend long-time Bafana Bafana partnership

The South African Football Association (SAFA) announced in May 2023 that they had extended their long-time partnership with Castle Lager for a further three years.

Castle Lager have been sponsors of the South African men's senior national team for more than three decades and the two parties are happy that the Africa Cup of Nations-bound Bafana Bafana will continue to have this backing in the coming years.

“SAFA and Castle Lager’s long-standing partnership is steeped in football tradition and this renewal is a win-win situation for both parties. This is one of the most enduring partnerships in sport and the next three years will be an exciting new chapter of this relationship,” said SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao.

“As an effort to keep driving South Africa forward, we are proud and are committed to ensuring the growth of national sports through our partnerships. This is how we grow our business responsibly and create a lasting impact in the communities we operate in. Cheers to the future,” said Vaughan Croeser, Vice-President of Marketing, SAB



**“Cheers to
the future”**

**- Vaughan Croeser
Vice-President of Marketing,
SAB**

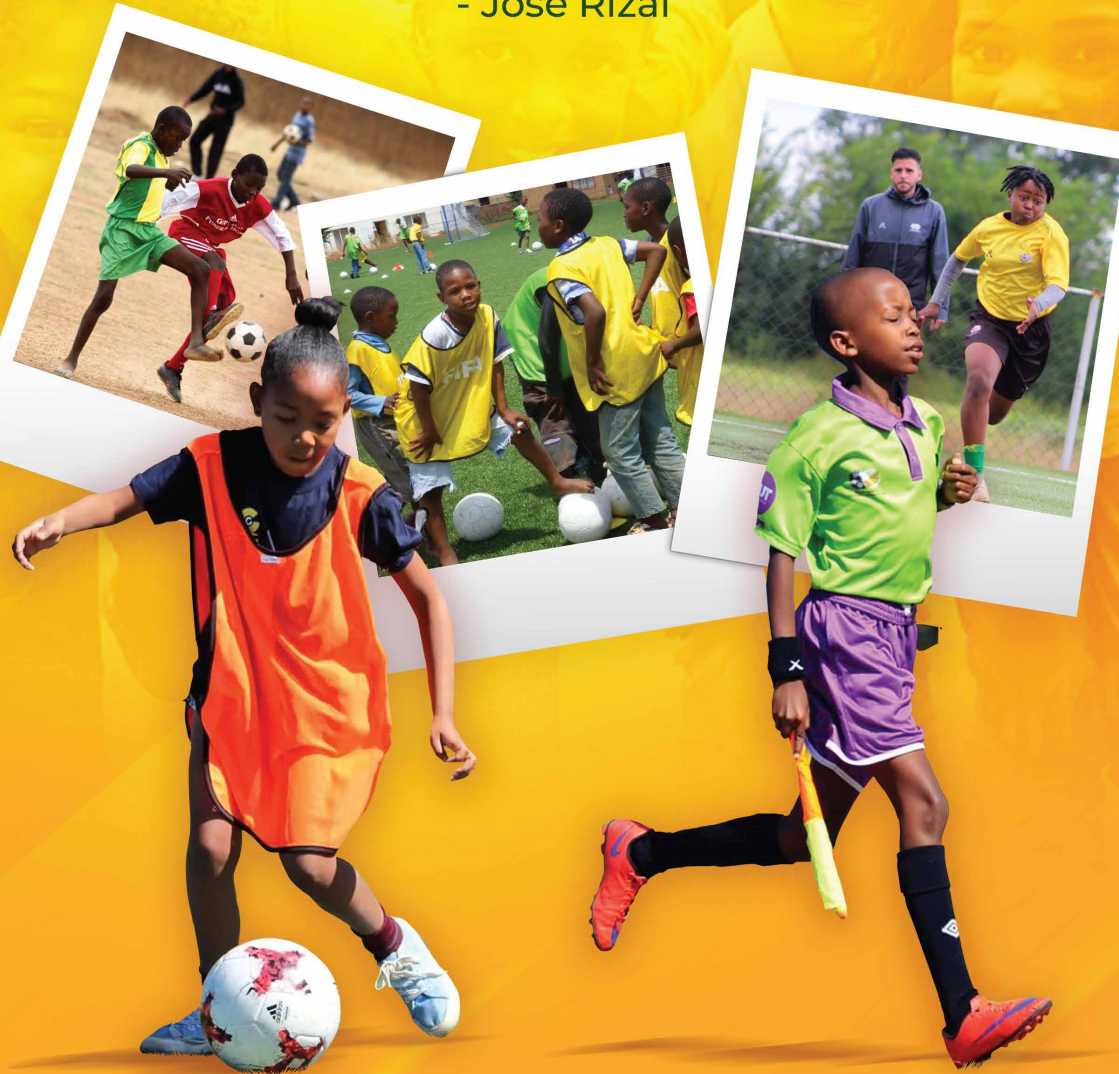
The Africa Cup of Nations will be held in Côte d'Ivoire in January next year and Bafana Bafana qualified after beating Liberia 2-1 in Monrovia on 28 March 2023.



SOUTH AFRICAN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

“The Youth is
the hope of our future.”

- Jose Rizal





Amajimbos return home after AFCON disappointment

The South African under-17 men's national team returned home in disappointment in May 2023 after bowing out of the AFCON U17 2023 in Algeria.

The team missed out on a semi-final spot and a ticket to the U23 FIFA World Cup when they lost 5-0 to Senegal.

The team consisted of 21 players and was led by coach Duncan Crowie, who was assisted by former Bafana Bafana skipper Aaron Mokoena. The team spent a month in camp, which started with a local camp that commenced on 9 April 2023 at the SAFA Technical Centre in the south of Johannesburg before officially travelling to Algeria for the tournament on 22 April 2023.

Amajimbos were in group B with Morocco, Nigeria and Zambia. They won one game in the group, which was against Zambia, and suffered two defeats to Morocco and Nigeria. They finished third on the standings.

After head-to-head comparison as per CAF tournament rules, the team made it to the quarter-finals as one of the third best finishers but couldn't qualify for the semi-finals after their quarter-final defeat.

Although disappointed with the results, Crowie emphasised that it was important for the players to look at individual performances and see where they can improve.

Amajimbos captain Benjamin Wallis said he hoped that his teammates work hard and make names for themselves.

"I think even after four weeks of playing football everyone is still motivated and right now everyone wants to return back to their clubs and make a name for themselves, progress as much as they can and hopefully this is the start of a successful career for the boys." Wallis told www.safa.net

President Ramaphosa honours Banyana coach Ellis with the Order of Ikhamanga



Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis was honoured by President Cyril Ramaphosa with the Order of Ikhamanga in gold for her contribution to sport.

Ellis was one of several recipients who were awarded top honours by President Ramaphosa at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guest House in Bryntirion, Pretoria, in April 2023.

Ellis attributed her success to team work and thanked SAFA, the Banyana Banyana players, the members of her technical team, her support staff, the sponsors SASOL and the fans for their support.

"I am very overwhelmed, I will be honest with you, this feels like getting a knighthood," she said.

"I am very grateful, I am very blessed to be able to receive it and I am even more blessed that for the first time at any event my mother has been able to come with me. So this is very special."

SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan applauded Ellis and said the honour was the perfect inspiration ahead of Banyana Banyana's participation at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in July.

"Through her amazing achievements, coach Desiree Ellis has become a continental brand and this latest honour further cements her status as one of the best football coaches in the country, and on the African continent," the SAFA President said.

"She has achieved some wonderful accomplishments in a sport predominantly dominated by her male counterparts."



“If you want to go quickly,
go alone. If you want to go
far, go together.”

- African Proverb



South Africa deserve to host the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup

Having hosted one of the most successful Senior Men's FIFA World Cup in 2010, South Africa's 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup bid chair Tumi Dlamini is confident the country has what it takes to be granted the next women's global showcase.

With the infrastructure from 2010 very much in place, Dlamini thinks the country doesn't need much to fix the outstanding issues.

Dlamini, who has been entrusted to be the face of the 2027 bid, was recently in New Zealand and Australia where together with SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan, SAFA CEO Ms Lydia Monyepao and 2027 bid CEO Russell Paul attended a symposium by all bidding countries in Sydney, Australia.

During the symposium, also attended by rival bidding nations – Brazil, a joint bid by USA and Mexico and another joint one by European giants Netherlands, Belgium and Germany – South Africa underscored why it should be a frontrunner for 2027.

The continent that saw three of their four participants at this year FIFA Women's World Cup – South Africa, Morocco and Nigeria - progress to the Last 16 showed the game's future is in Africa. The women's game has been rising in leaps in bounds across the continent and the three nations' progress to the Last 16 was another feather in the cap for South Africa's bid. Both Dlamini and Dr Jordaan said bringing the 2027 tournament to South Africa would be a game changer all round.

"It will give the game a global feel that not only the elite are entitled to host major events and that bringing it to Africa will really galvanise the interest of the game among women. It will also give Africa an extra slot as the hosts will automatically qualify for the competition," said Dr Jordaan.

Apart from the normal benefits of hosting such an event, Dr Jordaan said the FIFA Women's World Cup will offer the country some positive news in this climate. In the meantime, there is a lot of work that still needs to be done to promote the country's bid, which includes visiting various countries to sell the bid and charm global audiences. That will be followed by all Member Associations submitting their bids to FIFA on 8 December 2023.

In February 2024, FIFA will organise an onsite visit inspection to all bidding countries with the publication of FIFA's Bid Evaluation report scheduled for May. A few days later, the FIFA Council will vote for the winning bid.

SAFA, UEFA collaborate in leadership programme



In May 2022, the South African Football Association (SAFA) submitted an application to UEFA for funding for the leadership Retreat programme. The dates of the workshop were agreed upon in November 2022 and the agreed dates were 13-16 February 2023.

There were a number of benefits accrued from this successful programme and among them were:

Technical development

Human Resources gaps that need to be closed in administration

Income generation ideas which will make the Association self-sustainable

Risk assessment and Strategic planning for Vision 2030 following the end of Vision 2022

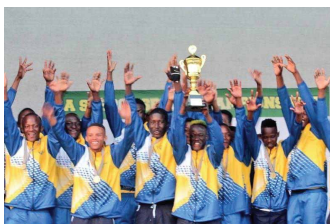
The first two days of the workshop were dedicated to stakeholder analysis with one-on-one interviews of different key stakeholders in governance, sponsors, the media, fans, referees, regions as well as SAFA staff from different departments.

Following analysis of the meetings and surveys, UEFA Assist ran training modules on key topics covering leadership and governance, strategy, technical development, risk management, income generation (marketing and communication) as well as strategic and operational planning.

As a result of this project, the Association will compile the organisation's strategic plan for Vision 2030. The Association also need to look into generating revenue from sponsorship and merchandise sales. There is also urgent need to increase capacity of the Technical Department and to make sure the financing is sustainable, there is need to source funding for various programmes at Provincial, Regional and LFA level.



2023 Schools National Championships



The 2023 SA Schools Championships got underway in July at the Benoni Northern's Club where the youth from around South Africa came together to compete in their different sporting codes.

The tournament ran from 4-6 July 2023.

Football was represented by three age groups for both girls and boys. The U15, U17 and U19 deaf were all competing for the title of SA Schools Champions.

The U15 tournament is the qualifier for the CAF Schools Championships, where the two ultimate winners will represent South Africa at the continental youth showpiece, which will be held in October 2023.

South Africa will be represented by reigning CAF Schools Champions, Edendale Technical School from KwaZulu Natal in the girls category while the boys will be represented by Ubuntu Academy from the Western Cape.



2023 FIFA Womens World Cup Trophy Tour

South Africa hosted a succesful 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy tour on 22-23 March 2023.

The Africa leg of the tour started in Morocco on 20 March and then moved to South Africa, Zambia and finally Nigeria. The glittering siverware travelled around 32 countries and visited Soweto's Shapa Centre and Vosloorus over two days during the South African leg.

Day One in Soweto hosted a day filled with fun and entertainment, as a coaching course was held for 500 female scholars.

South African Football Association (SAFA) President Dr Danny Jordaan, Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis, some members of the South African senior women's team, United States FIFA Women's World Cup winning goalkeeper, Saskia Webber, and some members of the SAFA NEC were among those who welcomed the trophy to the country. The members of the public also had an opportunity to take photos with the FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy.

The members of media came out in huge numbers to capture the historic event, with SAFA partnering with the Gauteng provincial government to host the event.

Day Two saw the trophy make its way to the East Rand where activations were held, and the public getting more opportunities to take photos with the priceless silverware.



ABC Motsepe National Playoffs

Pietermaritzburg hosted the 2023 ABC Motsepe National Playoffs, where the two tournament finalists gained promotion to the national first division of South African football.

Uppington City from the Northern Cape were crowned ABC Motsepe National Champions on Sunday afternoon (11 June 2023) in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal after beating Orbit TVET College of the North West 3-1 in the final. The Champions walked away with a whopping R1 250 000, while runners up Orbit TVET College walked away with R600 000.





In Collaboration with FIFA TDS Programme

The South African Football Association hosted the inaugural U15 Technical Development Scheme Tournament at Panorama Football Club in Honeydew in July 2023 where the first ever U15 National boys Team was selected.

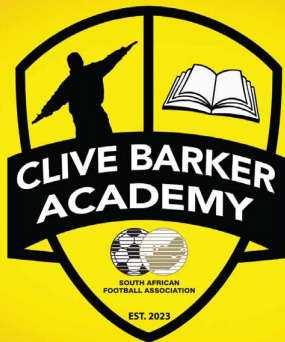
The nine Provincial teams which were selected over three months went head to head with six invited academies from around the country.

Kaizer Chiefs U15 beat KwaZulu Natal 2-1 in the final.

A Technical Study Group was present throughout the weekend and selected a pool of players that will make up the first ever U15 National Team, which will ultimately become the next group of U17 National Team in 2025.



SAFA honours legendary former Bafana Bafana coach Clive Barker



Legendary former Bafana Bafana coach Clive Barker passed away in June 2023.

The much-loved Africa Cup of Nations-winning coach's family announced that he passed away on Saturday, 10 June after a brave battle with Lewy Body Dementia (LBD).

The 78-year-old Barker led the South African men's senior national team to the Africa Cup of Nations title in 1996, and he also spearheaded the country's first appearance at the FIFA World Cup in France in 1998. Looking back to his relationship with Barker, Bafana Bafana assistant coach Helman Mkhalele took a trip down memory lane and he said in retrospect, the much-loved coach believed more in his abilities than Mkhalele did in himself.

"You know, the funny thing is to this day I do not think that coach Barker could whistle because when I was on the ball the fans used to whistle, and it got me going. But in the background somewhere I could hear coach Clive saying 'Helllllmaaaannnn take him on, take him on or, paaaaace Helman, paaaaace. I don't think the coach could whistle,'" chuckled Mkhalele as he reminisced about the man he referred to as Hell Fire.

Mkhalele said it is with great sadness that the goodbyes are said, but the memories left behind live strong. "He was a gentle character, referred to as 'The Dog' because of his surname, but so far from the truth in the comparison. "He believed in the players, he was a sounding board, he could spill the truth in the kindest of ways and make you understand a decision that was taken against your favour. He made me believe in my abilities and left an indelible mark on my life as a player, and now that I'm a coach, there is so much I take with me that I've adopted from him. I will always go back to the way he made me feel, and not so much on what he said.

"He always treated me as an individual, as a human, with respect and saw me for who I was and not what he wanted me to be. I grieve, but feel so blessed to have worked with him, to have celebrated success with him and to call him, my friend, brother, father and mentor."

Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Zizi Kodwa, SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan and former Bafana Bafana captain Neil Tovey visited the late erstwhile South African senior national team coach's family in Glenwood in Durban to pay their respects on Monday (12 June 2023). The Association then held a Memorial Service in honour of Barker at SAFA House on Thursday, 15 June 2023.

Among those who attended the service were SAFA Vice-President Linda Zwane, NEC members Job Mchunu, Pius Nqandela, Solly Mkhabela and Bhudha Mathathe. The Class of '96, which won the Africa Cup of Nations, was represented by stalwart David Nyathi who was accompanied by another former Bafana Bafana kingpin, Sibusiso Zuma.

Also present was SAFA Technical Director Walter Steenbok and members of the South Africa Football Coaches Association, which included President Greg Mashilo and Sudesh Singh.

Nyathi gave a moving tribute, giving a detailed account that the late Barker was more than just a coach but was a Nation Builder and an inspiration to the football family. Dr Jordaan said SAFA will continue to honour Barker through some of the programmes that the Association has, especially in the SAFA Academy, youth courses and scouting, among others.

The South African Football Association (SAFA) launched the SAFA Clive Barker Academy in August 2023 in honour of fallen legend Barker. It was also announced that the Association would once again host CAF A License Diploma courses. The first CAF A License Course will be held in November 2023.





SAFA hosts successful Indaba, workshop and Congress in Ekurhuleni

The South African Football Association (SAFA) hosted a successful Indaba, workshop and Congress in Ekurhuleni in April 2023.

The delegates gave South Africa's bid to host the FIFA Women's World Cup overwhelming support and SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan said the week spent in the East of Johannesburg was a huge success.

"With the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup bid, SAFA says it is full steam ahead. The workshop and the Indaba held before the 31st SAFA Ordinary Congress were an unqualified success," the SAFA president said.

"About 50% of the delegates at the SAFA Indaba and 31st SAFA Ordinary Congress were women and they all endorsed the Bid. Each one of the 52 SAFA regions had at least one delegate. There were over 60 women present and this is the highest number of women delegates to attend a Congress of the three codes of sport – football, rugby and cricket."

Representatives from FIFA and the Confederation of African Football were also present and they expressed their total satisfaction with the Indaba and the Congress. They said they would submit reports to both FIFA and CAF.

The chair of the parliamentary sports portfolio committee, Beauty Dlulane, was also present at the SAFA Congress in Ekurhuleni.



SAFA partners with Hollywoodbets for Men's Regional League



The South African Football Association (SAFA) and partners Hollywoodbets launched a new sponsorship for the Men's Regional League at SAFA House in August 2023.

SAFA Vice President Linda Zwane announced the two-year sponsorship with an option to renew. All SAFA regions are regulated to play in a league of 18 teams, where the top two Provincial teams gain promotion to the ABC Motsepe League.



"We're really happy about this partnership that will benefit football in rural areas. It's great to have a big entity that understands football needs financial support," said the SAFA Vice President.

"For two years, the lack of sponsorship has made it hard for teams to develop. But now, with the prize money, teams will feel motivated.

"They'll know there's something to win beyond just moving up to a higher division.

"With this new partnership, we anticipate a future of enhanced player exposure, elevated competition, and professional club development. This sponsorship is more than just financial support, it's a powerful testament to the shared vision of uplifting communities."

Hollywoodbets Senior Football Sponsorship Co-ordinator Indira Albuquerque said that they were very excited about this new partnership as they want to have an impact in the communities, and football is the best way to reach the masses. The SAFA Hollywoodbets Regional league will kicked off in September 2023.

SA Under-16 men's team participates in a youth tournament in Poland

The South African Under-16 side departed for Poland on Friday (24 March 2023) night to participate in a tournament that coach Zipho Dlangalala said would lay the foundation for a bright future for his players.

The tournament ran from 27 March to 1 April 2023 and the participants were the hosts Poland, Luxembourg and Northern Ireland.

Dlangalala spent several days running the rule over his players at the SAFA National Technical Centre in the south of Johannesburg and he said the preparations for the tournament went very well. Despite team SA losing all their matches during the tournament, Witbooi scored a solitary goal while also providing an important assist in one of the matches.

Dlangalala, who has worked with players like Keagan Dolly, Paseka Mako and Siphelele Mkhulise, among others was happy about the outcome of the Poland trip.

SA lost 2-1 to the Northern Ireland, 5-0 to Poland and 3-2 to Luxembourg, but Dlangalala said the tournament was a huge learning curve.





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