



The African Telatelist

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SOCCKER WORLD CUP 2010 STADIUMS – FREE STATE STADIUM, BLOEMFONTEIN

The Free State Stadium, also known as Vodacom Park, is a stadium in Bloemfontein, used for rug-by as well as soccer. It was originally built in 1995 for that year's Rugby World Cup. The primary rugby union tenants of the facility are:

- The Free State Cheetahs, which participate in the Currie Cup .
- The Cheetahs, which represents Free State and Northern Cape Provinces in the Super 14.

The primary soccer tenant is Bloemfontein Celtic, who plays in the Premier Soccer League.

1996 African Cup of Nations

The Free State Stadium was one of venues used for the 1996 African Cup of Nations. It hosted 6 group matches and a quarter-final match:

Date	Team 1	Res	Team 2	Round
14 Jan 96	Zambia	0-0	Algeria	Group B
15 Jan 96	Siera Leone	2-1	Burkina Faso	Group B
18 Jan 96	Algeria	2-0	Siera Leone	Group B
20 Jan 96	Zambia	5-1	Burkina Faso	Group B
24 Jan 96	Zambia	4-0	Siera Leone	Group B
25 Jan 96	Ghana	2-0	Mozambique	Group D
27 Jan 96	Zambia	3-1	Egypt	Quarter-finals

2009 FIFA Confederations Cup

The Free State Stadium was one of the host venues for the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup.

Date	Team 1	Res	Team 2	Round
15 Jun 09	Brazil	4-3	Egypt	Group B
17 Jun 09	Spain	1-0	Iraq	Group A

20 Jun 09	Spain	2-0	South Africa	Group A
24 Jun 09	Spain	0-2	United States	Semi-final

2010 FIFA World Cup

In advance of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, a second tier was added to the main grandstand on the western side of the ground, increasing the capacity from 36 538 to 48 000. Additionally, new turnstiles were created, the floodlights upgraded, electronic scoreboards installed, the sound system revamped to the required standards and CCTV and media facilities improved.

Bloemfontein received R221 million to upgrade the stadium. Though cost estimates were at R245 million, the City decided to stand in for the R24m shortfall. Tenders were advertised in February & March 2007. Upgrade work started in July 2007.

The stadium hosted the following matches:

Date	Team 1	Res	Team 2	Round
14 Jun 10	Japan	1-0	Cameroon	Group E
17 Jun 10	Greece	2-1	Nigeria	Group B
20 Jun 10	Slovakia	0-2	Paraguay	Group F
22 Jun 10	France	1-2	South Africa	Group A
25 Jun 10	Switzerland	0-0	Honduras	Group H
27 Jun 10	Germany	4-1	England	Round of 16

Home to some of the country's most fanatical group of supporters, the Free State Stadium is likely to be the centre of attention during the FIFA World Cup. The stadium was given a plush new look for the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup. It hosted the memorable semi-final match between Spain and USA where the latter secured one of the biggest surprises of the tournament by sending the European champions packing in front of a capacity crowd.

The Free State Stadium was upgraded from a capacity of 38 000 to 45 000 during the refurbishments. The stadium has hosted numerous major soccer and rugby union matches and Bloemfontein people are renowned for their passion for sport. While the former played second fiddle to the latter for decades, soccer's popularity explosion - aided by the emergence of Bloemfontein Celtic - is changing this. The Celtic fans are known as *Siwelele*, a Sotho term.



Source: Wikipedia.
Anton de Klerk.

NEW PREPAID PHONECARDS FROM MADAGASCAR

Derik Ras with the assistance of Paul Botha, kindly brought some new prepaid cards from Madagascar to the attention of ATA members. The images of these cards are depicted in the next column. Members interested in obtaining any cards from Madagascar, can contact Derik directly. These prepaid phonecards are all issued by Telma, one of Madagascar's mobile operators, and are issued in various denominations. The last two prepaid cards can be used for fix line phones, mobile phones or for surfing the internet.

