



The African Telatelist

Newsletter 153 of the African Telately Association – March 2011.

SOCCKER WORLD CUP 2010 STADIUMS – MBOMBELA STADIUM, NELSPRUIT

Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit is a newly built all seater 43 500 seat stadium and is one of the 10 venues for the FIFA World Cup 2010. It is located on open land 6 km west of Nelspruit, with the stadium as the centerpiece of a proposed wider sports precinct with athletics and cricket as well as other sporting codes. The R1,050-million sports facility was ready for use well ahead of the June 2010 World Cup kickoff and has been made possible through taxpayer funding.

The multi-purpose stadium, which is expected to host key soccer and rugby matches, will also be equipped with conference facilities.

Construction

Construction commenced in February 2007 and was completed in November 2009. The construction contract was awarded to a South African–French consortium of Basil Read Construction and Bouygues Construction. The structure is founded on 1 500 piles on a 10m structural grid. Each giraffe sits on 18 piles on the 30m major structural bay. The 10m span seating beams are pre-stressed and most of the 3 170 units were pre-cast on site. The project was subjected to numerous wild cat strike and with the 5th and final strike all main contract labourers were dismissed. All subsequent work was performed by sub-contractors. During a freak storm in January 2009 a tower crane blew over and cut through the partially completed roof. The site was unoccupied at the time and there were no injuries. The construction required a total of 5.5million man hours to complete. The site was exceptionally safe with the worst injury being a broken ankle. A record was set of 2,4million consecutive injury free hours.

Corruption related to the construction, resulted in the provincial government taking over the responsibilities, including construction management as of January 2009.

Stadium

Most seats are covered by a cantilever roof. The signature feature of the stadium is the 18 roof supports that resemble giraffes. The stadium is close to the Kruger National Park and the stadium reflects this inter-relation. Visitors to this World Cup venue will be able to couple this with a visit to the game reserve.

Design

The bowl design aimed to put every seat as close as practical to the field action and maintain excellent sightlines over the heads of spectators. It is the most compact arena of all 2010 venues. The seats are patterned with zebra stripes. The seating is divided into 3 tiers with 21 000 lower tier, 3 500 middle tier and 19 000 upper tier. The upper tier is accessed by 8 wide ramps located on the corners. The ramps accommodate small delivery vehicles. The middle tier which is accessed by elevators has premium seating with a VIP lounge, restaurant, club lounges and 25 private boxes

Pitch

The pitch is sized for rugby 100x70m, soccer 105 x68m and floodlit to 2 200 lux to meet FIFA requirements. The stadium will be used intensely for training and matches. The cool season Rye grass pitch grown from seed is reinforced with Desso GrassMaster artificial turf fibres, which anchor the field into a stable and a level grass surface.

Roof

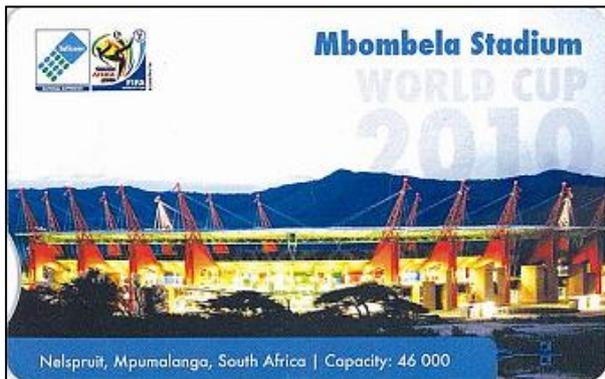
The 1 450 tonne roof covers an area of 22 500 m² and covers 94% of the seats. The roof is 35m above the pitch, half of which is translucent to maximise sunlight to the pitch and to lighten the seating bowl. The roof floats free from the top of the seating bowl with a 6m gap to provide ventilation in the hot climate and also to provide views to the surrounding hills from the seating bowl. The structure is a propped cantilever on a 30m module with the steel towers for the tension rods doubling as symbolic giraffe necks. The floor of the service catwalk is 10cm thick concrete as ballast to resist wind uplift.

2010 World Cup

The stadium hosted the following 4 group matches in 2010:

Date	Team 1	Res	Team 2	Round
16 Jun 10	 Honduras	0-1	 Chile	Group H
20 Jun 10	 Italy	1-1	 New Zealand	Group F

23 Jun 10	 Australia	2-1	 Serbia	Group D
25 Jun 10	 Korea DPR	0-3	 Cote d'Ivoire	Group G



Source: Wikipedia.
Anton de Klerk.

FIFA 2010 SOCCER WORLD CUP PHONECARDS – Anton de Klerk

By the time members read this newsletter, the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup tournament will be history. Other local or international events would have overtaken this event.

It is interesting to note that with the exception of South Africa and the African countries and Cyprus where MTN operates, no other country issued any phonecards relating to the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup tournament.

It now appears that China has issued a few sets of 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup phonecards. Whether these are real or fakes are for the collector to decide. Images of some of these phonecards are shown in the next column.

The second and third images contain scenes from various matches during the tournament in South Africa.



The image above is small and unclear, but it contains a phonocard with each of the 32 teams competing in the tournament.

