

The Worker



Knowledge is power

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THE WORLD CUP FACT FILE

- The cost of hosting the World Cup was approximately R40 billion!
- **FIFA and MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES came to plunder and exploit SA's poor and destitute even more!!!**
- It was an economic triumph – but only for FIFA and the sponsors.
- **Up to 44 000 policemen and -women were deployed to guarantee the safety and security of foreigners around stadiums, fan parks, hotels and tourist sites whilst crime remained rife in under-privileged areas.**
- **Stadium guards were paid R1 300 per month.**
- **Construction workers on the Cape Town stadium engaged in a strike in 2009 and won a raise to R12 an hour, giving them a monthly wage of about R2 000 (before transport costs and other deductions).**
- **Only 200 000 additional tourists came to South Africa especially for the world cup. This was less than half the number of those who attended the world cup in Germany in 2006.**
- **The costs of this extravagant celebration will remain for years to come. Millions of suffering South Africans will FEEL IT.**
- **THE BIGGEST LIE OF WORLD CUP 2010**

The biggest lie: **THE WORLD CUP UNITED ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The truth is as follows:

- “Whites” and “blacks” sat side by side in the stadiums and “fan parks” – then went back to their respective racial residential areas.
- The rich live their lives in breathtakingly beautiful city centres, in luxurious gated estates, in luxuriant green farmlands, enjoying magnificent sports stadiums, surrounded by the best, the most expensive recreational facilities, with access to the best schools and hospitals.
- South Africa’s poor eke out wretched, painful, violent and short existences in ugly, unhygienic, dirty, dusty, dangerous, crime-ridden, townships (slums) – 2 600 of them throughout the country.
- The biggest gap between rich and poor exists in South Africa. South Africa is the world champions! But not in soccer – in **INEQUALITY**. The previous champions were Brazil.

THE POOR WERE DELIBERATELY AND CALLOUSLY EXCLUDED

- **Street children, traders, the poor, the homeless, shack dwellers and refugees were removed so that they would not be seen by tourists.**
- In Cape Town (Brooklyn) stadium guards were shot at outside their employer’s offices when protesting over a wage dispute resulting from their low wages. (Newspapers reported that they were being paid R1 300 per month.)
- The poor informal traders – struggling to make a measly living – were not allowed to trade in control zones around World Cup sites.

THE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED AS NEVER BEFORE!

OTHER BIG LIES

THE LIE: There will be economic prosperity for all, “trickling down” from the world cup: job creation, economic growth, infrastructural development, urban renewal and nation building.

THE TRUTH: There have been hardly any “trickle-down” benefits for ordinary South Africans. The anticipated demand for accommodation did not materialize.

THE LIE: Job creation would result from increased economic activity before and after the world cup.

THE TRUTH: Only a few, temporary, poorly paid jobs were created. Unemployment is as high as it ever was.

THE REAL WORLD

- Tax-payers will foot the bill for the stadiums and the infrastructure – a total cost of approximately R60 billion?
- **The workers of the construction companies that built the stadiums, the roads and the bridges earned under R2 000 per month and have already lost their jobs now that the work is complete.**
- This loss of jobs will be added to the estimated more than a million jobs lost over the past two years! (*Cape Times* 14 June 2010).
- **It is estimated that elite, private (mainly construction) companies (Murray and Roberts, Group Five, WHBO) will reap profits of R20 to R25 billion** from building or upgrading new roads and airports, and from building new stadiums or upgrading existing ones.
- **FIFA, which does not declare its profits, will also earn millions for its members!**

THE BIGGEST LOSERS: THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS, BECAUSE MONEY THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THEIR URGENT NEEDS WAS SPENT ON FOOTBALL!

- Literally millions of people in the 2 600 “informal settlements” around the country need protection from severe winter cold and wet weather in their water-logged shacks! **This will not happen!**
- Millions have desperately urgent other needs too: **housing, schools, transport, and enclosed toilets. These will not be attended to. No money!**

THE WORLD CUP WINNERS

- The real winner of the World Cup will not be the team who wins the final on 11 July – it will be Fifa and its Local Organising Committee, who will make a staggering R20billion-to-R25billion from the event.
- Other “winners” will include a number of big business firms who were all granted exclusive sponsorship rights by Fifa. These include: Adidas, Coca-Cola, Sony, Hyundai, McDonalds and FNB.
- FIFA’s LOC under the chairmanship of Danny Jordaan will also take their share of the loot. This is over and above the already R7m each to Danny Jordaan and Irwin Khoza for securing the bid for SA.

World Cup Losers

- Thousands of workers were hired to build the stadiums, for wages of no more than R1 300 per month. Most of them are now out of work.
- Why would the government spend billions of rands to host a global sporting event like the World Cup, when there is so much poverty, homelessness, disease, unemployment, gutter education in this country? The short answer is, “The government doesn’t care about the people.”
- Twenty thousand people were force-moved out of the Joe Slovo settlement in Johannesburg, to make way for rental housing for the World Cup.
- Children were evicted from their schools near Mbombela Stadium. When they protested for decent schools, their protests were violently repressed.

In Cape Town, a special shanty town called Blikkiesdorp was created some 30 kilometers out of the city, as a dumping ground for people that the authorities wanted to move out of the city ahead of the World Cup. Blikkiesdorp – “Tin Can Town” in English – is miles away from work opportunities and healthcare facilities.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

WHAT DID NOT WORK: The question is, what are we going to do about it? Are we going to continue to vote for a government that doesn’t care about the people? How will voting help? For the last sixteen years, in election after election (both national government elections and municipal elections) we have been casting our votes, but nothing has changed. In many ways, things have gotten worse. This proves that voting is a waste of time.

WHAT WE MUST NOW DO: More and more, we are going to have to think about “Peoples’ Power.” What is “Peoples’ Power?” It is nothing other than organising ourselves into strong, united community-based and people-based organisations. This way we would be able to challenge the government and big business more effectively, and force them to focus less on themselves and their own privileges, and more on the needs of the people.

Our ONE GOAL!!!: To highlight the FOULS committed by Capitalism/Imperialism against the poverty- stricken peoples of South Africa and score a WIN for Socialism!!!

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