



## Countdown to the First Netball World Cup in South Africa

The countdown to the Netball World Cup has begun. South Africa is the host. The Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 (VNWC2023) is scheduled to be hosted on African soil for the first time. The VNWC2023 will be held in Cape Town from 28th July – 6th August 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) with 16 of the world's top netball nations, including the hosts South Africa, competing.

Tickets and travel packages can be purchased by visiting the official tournament website ([www.nwc2023.org.za](http://www.nwc2023.org.za)) with a range of tickets and packages available. The four countries carrying the hopes of Africa are South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. South Africa find themselves in pool C paired alongside Jamaica, Wales, and Sri Lanka. The Spar Proteas

have faced these teams at a World Cup before. South Africa have been drawn with Jamaica's Sunshine Girls in a group at a World Cup on three previous occasions, in 2003, 2011 and most recently 2019. South Africa last shared a group with Wales in 1999 and Sri Lanka in 2015. South Africa is ranked fifth in the world, Jamaica fourth, Wales ninth and Sri Lanka 16th (World rankings based on matches up to 3 November 2022). The 16 teams on their way to Cape Town are as follows: South Africa, Australia, Barbados, England, Fiji, Jamaica, Malawi, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Wales, Zimbabwe. South Africa played in the 1967 Netball World Cup before being banned due to the government's Apartheid policies. They returned at the 1995 World Cup.

## Banyana Banyana assemble for camp in Johannesburg

Banyana Banyana have assembled in a camp for local-based players in Johannesburg this week as coach Desiree Ellis continues with her preparations for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in July. Ellis said the camp will give all the players an opportunity to put their hands up and show what they can do in the coming days.

"The last camp we had, when we had that extra week, it really, really helped us. It helped us in terms of getting our defensive structure better. Obviously this is another opportunity now to work on maybe our set-pieces as well because this is sometimes a challenge for us, you know. A week might not seem a lot but it's a lot in terms of what we can achieve, considering how we grew in the last camp a week before the FIFA date," she told [www.safa.net](http://www.safa.net).

Ellis said the camp is a huge opportunity for the players in camp to impress and stake their claim to places in the World Cup-bound final team.

"It is a big opportunity for players that are in camp because obviously they have a foot in, but the door is never



closed to anyone and it can only be closed once the final squad has been announced. It has been proven over the last couple of years when players came in just before the WAFCON squad was selected, and made the final team. So everybody needs to put in their best performances and best effort because that is what is we're looking.

Sasol Senior Manager: Group Brand and Sponsorship Nozipho Mbatha expressed her excitement about the Banyana Banyana selection camp and wished the team well.

"We would like to wish all the players who have been chosen to be a part of the Banyana Banyana selection camp the best of luck. We believe that every player is excited to bring their A-Game as this may open a world of opportunities, and they could potentially be selected to represent South Africa at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. "As Sasol we would like to encourage all the players to put their best foot forward during this period and gain much intelligence from the coaching staff as they pursue to live the impossible."



## Sasol rallies South Africans to back Banyana Banyana to the World Cup

A campaign that is intended to rally support for Banyana Banyana ahead of the FIFA Women's World Cup was launched by the team's long-time sponsors SASOL in Johannesburg on Wednesday (3 May 2023). The global tournament will be held in Australia and New Zealand from 20 July – 20 August 2023 and South Africans have been asked to rally behind the team with the slogan "South Africa, your support is our energy".

Fans can send their messages of support on the Sasol and the Banyana Banyana social media pages. Sasol will collate all the messages received and ensure they are shared with the entire team while they are in camp preparing for the World Cup, and when they are in Australia and New Zealand participating in the global tournament. Sasol's Executive Vice President for Human Resources and Stakeholder Relations, Charlotte Mokoena, said the company is reaffirming its commitment to the South African senior women's national team through this campaign. "Nelson Mandela once said: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people". Now we are headed to the biggest stage in women's football, where the challenge is bigger, the opponents are harder, and every game is difficult," she said. "However, I can attest that these ladies are fearless and will represent South Africa to the best of their ability, BUT they need us, South Africa. This is our chance to show the world what our athletes are capable of, but more importantly, what they can do with the support of a nation". Banyana Banyana are in a camp for local-based players in Johannesburg this week, but they took some time off to attend the

launch with coach Desiree Ellis and members of her technical team. The camp is part of Ellis' preparations for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. SAFA President Dr Danny Jordaan, who attended the launch with some members of the National Executive Committee, COO Lydia Monyepao and staff from the Association, applauded Sasol on this great initiative and campaign. "We are excited about this initiative by our valued sponsors, Sasol, which takes the campaign to football fans, especially Banyana Banyana fans.

As Banyana Banyana are about to embark on the FIFA Women's World Cup journey, they will be buoyed to know the entire country is behind them. They are our beacon of hope, the Pride of the Nation and we are confident they will surprise many countries in this upcoming World Cup." Ellis said the fans have always been a big part of who Banyana Banyana are and the team have seen it on numerous occasions in the past. "This campaign is a very good initiative by Sasol," she said. "We know that they've been behind us all the way and they've gone the extra mile to make sure that we have that support, whether the fans come to the stadium or whether the fans are supporting us from afar like they did with the Women's Africa Cup of Nations. We really appreciate the effort that Sasol has put in and I'm sure the players are also very excited about the campaign, and how Sasol is pushing beyond the impossible to make sure that the players feel the vibe and the support from South Africa."

Fans who participate in the campaign stand a chance to win great prizes, including a trip to watch Banyana Banyana in Australia and New Zealand.