



## Press Release

**To:** All Media

**Date:** 17/01/2013

Please find a creative article from SAT.

For any queries on this statement or anything else in relation to this statement please contact the undersigned.

Thanking you in advance.

Kind regards,

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**17 January 2013**

**National stadium: A fountain of nostalgia in SA**

The historic Soccer City Stadium will now be referred to as the National Stadium during the 2013 Orange Africa Cup of Nations in South Africa.

This was confirmed by the country's Local Organising Committee. The National Stadium will host the opening act of the 2013 Orange Africa Cup of Nations between hosts, South Africa and newcomers, Cape Verde on 19 January 2012. On 10 February 2013, the new champions will be crowned at the National Stadium.

The National Stadium, fondly referred to as the 'Calabash', is the venue that hosted the 2010 FIFA World Cup opening match between South Africa and Mexico and the final between Spain and Netherlands just over two years ago. The stadium was given a face-lift before the 2010 FIFA World Cup – thanks to a multi-million US dollar investment. However, the stadium has been in existence since 1987.

In South Africa, the National Stadium is a fountain of nostalgia – a place where South Africa has performed some of its highest accolades. Memories from this venue are tattooed in the hearts of many South Africans. It was on a hot afternoon at the now National Stadium in February 1996 where South Africa ascended to the highest summit on African football. In 1996 during the final of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations, South Africa betrayed expectations when they beat African giants, Tunisia 2-0 to claim their maiden African championship – only four years after being readmitted back to international football.

The euphoria brought by that day is probably gathering dust now in the minds of many South Africans, but the return by Bafana Bafana on 19 January 2013 is set to open a leak in emotions deposited more than a decade ago.

The National Stadium, which was known as Soccer City during the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, is probably one of the most awe inspiring venues on the continent with a maximum capacity of over 90 000.

The newly named National Stadium has hosted several rugby top events including a clash between South Africa's Springboks and New Zealand's All Blacks – two teams regarded as amongst the best in world rugby.

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