

State of play

The national fervour engendered by the 1995 Rugby World Cup, the 1996 African Cup of Nations and the 2003 Cricket World Cup symbolically amplified our reputation as a 'rainbow nation'. However, if certain research is to be believed, in the build-up to the Soccer World Cup it seems our multicultural post-apartheid sporting identity is a little fractured. According to a 2009 study of 2,000 people conducted by TNS Research Surveys, three out of four South Africans are overjoyed about hosting the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. However, a closer look reveals that 86 percent of blacks, 77 percent of Indians/Asians, 69 percent of coloureds and only 49 percent of whites are excited at the prospect of the global sporting event. But research is never absolute – 2007 data compiled by the Human Sciences Research Council shows that a high percentage of all South African population groups believe sport brings different groups and races together: 88 percent white, 85 percent Indian, 83 percent coloured and 80 percent black.

