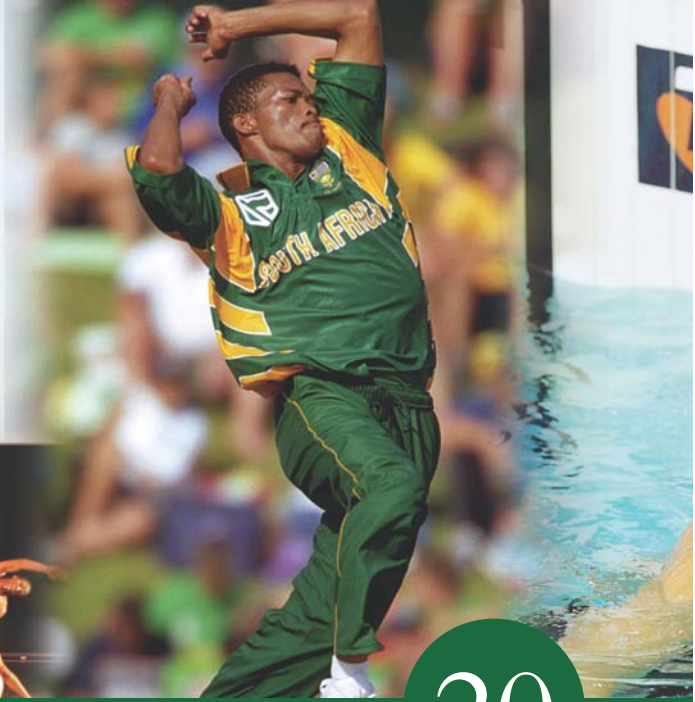




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Sport and recreation

Sport in South Africa is a multibillion rand industry and contributes more than 2% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) aims to improve the quality of life of all South Africans by promoting participation in sport and recreation in the country, and through the participation of sportspeople and teams in international sporting events.

The key objectives of the SRSA are to:

- increase the level of participation in sport and recreational activities
- raise the profile of sport
- maximise the probability of success in major sporting events
- place sport at the forefront of efforts to address issues of national importance.

The SRSA is responsible for:

- co-ordinating and contributing to the drafting of legislation on sport and recreation
- interpreting broad government policy, translating government policy into policies for sport and recreation, revising such policy if and when necessary, and monitoring the implementation thereof

- aligning sport and recreation policy with the policies of other government departments in the spirit of integrated planning and delivery
 - providing legal advice to all stakeholders in sport and recreation from a government perspective
 - subsidising clients of the SRSA in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), its concomitant regulations, as well as the SRSA funding policy; monitoring the application of such funds; and advising clients on the management of their finances
 - managing inter- and intragovernmental relations
 - acknowledging the contributions of sportspeople to South African society
 - procuring resources from abroad for sport and recreation, through the appropriate structures in National Treasury
 - communicating sport- and recreation-related matters from a government perspective
 - co-ordinating and monitoring the creation and upgrading of sport and recreation infrastructure.
- From 2005/06, the Building for Sport and Recreation Programme became part of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which is located in



the Department of Provincial and Local Government. The SRSA will continue with its policy, advocating and monitoring roles. In accordance with a contract concluded with the SRSA, local authorities will own the facilities once they have been completed and will be responsible for their maintenance.

Sport and recreation benefit from the proceeds of the National Lottery, subject to the Lotteries Act, 2000 (Act 10 of 2000). The Distribution Agency for Sport and Recreation was established to create and consolidate thriving, sustainable, mass-based sport and recreational structures and programmes, especially in disadvantaged rural communities.

Programmes **Sports Tourism Project**

SRSA launched the Sport Tourism Project at the Durban Tourism Indaba in May 2006. The primary motivation of the project is to exploit the substantial benefits that the tourism industry presents for job creation in South Africa.

It combines the Veza route-finder tool developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) with sports information, enabling users to plan attendance of sports events, including mapping the route to the venue, booking accommodation, and selecting restaurants and other tourist attractions in the vicinity of the venue or elsewhere in South Africa.

Tourism is widely recognised as a major growth sector internationally and it is estimated that 30% of all tourism comprises sports tourism.

A survey conducted by Standard Bank indicates that tourism outstrips gold earnings as a revenue generator for South Africa.

The SRSA aims to enhance the sustainability of the project by:

- promoting 'home-grown' events such as the Dusi Canoe Marathon, Pick & Pay *Argus* Cycle Tour, Midmar Mile (swimming), Berg and Breede river canoe marathons and the Two Oceans Marathon, which attract large numbers of international participants and spectators
- working closely with South African Tourism and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to promote more attractive tourist packages for spectators who want to accompany touring sports teams to South Africa
- assisting agencies, in line with a major events strategy and the hosting and bidding regulations, to attract major international sports events to South Africa
- marketing South Africa's sport and recreation facilities, such as golf courses and beaches, abroad
- producing an interactive CD-ROM to provide information on sport and recreation events and associated information on South Africa.

Mass participation

The Syiadlala Mass Participation Programme (SMPP) was launched in 2005 to facilitate access to sport and recreation by as many South Africans as possible, especially those from historically disadvantaged communities. The SRSA launched the programme with a budget of R20 million. The department is entering the third year of the programme with a budget of R79 million.

The SRSA has expanded the programme that it launched in 36 activity hubs involving 200 000 participants around the country in 2004/05, to 131 hubs involving more than 1,2 million people in 2005/06. In 2006/07, another 133 hubs were expected to be added. The aim, eventually, is to ensure that no child has to walk more than five kilometres to access an activity hub anywhere in the country. The establishment of at least one hub in every ward in every municipality across South Africa is the ideal. That means that there will be eventually more than 3 800 hubs bustling with active South Africans.

The SMPP is expected to enable the sport sector to contribute to the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA). By mid-2006, 353 unemployed young people had been recruited and trained and were being paid a stipend to run the programmes. Research done in the hubs indicates that small stipends contribute to feeding up to eight families in some instances. The SMPP had also trained 825 young volunteers in sport and recreation administration, 1 293 entry-level coaches, 655 referees, and over 450 people in event management and first aid.

Young Champions Project

The project is a joint effort of the SRSA, the South African Police Service, provincial and local departments responsible for sport and recreation, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and national and provincial sports federations.

South Africa hosted the International Paralympic Committee's Swimming World Championships in Durban in December 2006. The championships, which take place every four years, were expected to attract 600 swimmers and 265 officials from 60 countries.

It forms part of the SRSA's commitment to encouraging the youth, especially those in crime nodes, to take part in sport.

School sport

In 2005, the SRSA concluded an agreement with the Department of Education for the resuscitation and revitalisation of school sports and physical education programmes. In the 2006/07 budget, more than R85 million was set aside for the SRSA's two school-sport programmes.

Physical Education as a compulsory school subject constitutes the very basis of participation and often provides reluctant participants with their first sports experience that could make them more positive toward participating. In future, Physical Education will feature in the life-orientation programme of the School Curriculum.

The SRSA has also introduced programmes that have led to more young people competing more regularly and on more equal grounds. In 2006/07, 798 schools were expected to participate in 56 clusters comprising schools close to one another to facilitate regular interaction between the 200 000 learners initially involved. The aim is to eventually involve 2 700 schools countrywide in the project.

Transformation in sport Sports Transformation Charter

The Sports Transformation Charter guides all macrobodies, national and provincial federations, and clubs on the need to transform sport.

The charter is complemented by performance agreements that national federations enter into with the Minister of Sport and Recreation. The main focus of the charter and the performance agreement is to:

- increase participation levels in sport and recreation
- make sport and recreation accessible to all South Africans
- ensure that provincial and national teams reflect South African society
- ensure that all sport and recreation bodies meet their affirmative-action objectives
- promote greater involvement of marginalised groups – such as women, people with disabilities, people living in rural communities and the youth – in sport and recreation.

Ministerial task team into high-performance sport

In December 2004, the first steps were taken towards implementing the ministerial task team's recommendations into high-performance sport that were approved by Cabinet. The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc) opened its doors, and the SRSA took over the functions of the South African Sports Commission (SASC) and its personnel.

The expanded SRSA has the capacity to provide mass-based sport and recreation at community level in the most remote parts of the country. Government resources for sport and recreation will be channelled into the SMPP.

Sascoc has taken over all the high-performance sport activities, and works in close co-operation with national federations that constitute its primary stakeholders.

National Sports Academy

The National Sports Academy was launched in 2004 to improve sports performance and to bring South Africa on par with other sporting nations. The academy seeks to create opportunities for talented athletes to exploit their potential to the full.

Its short-term focus is on providing a one-stop, world-class training and support environment for identified sport, offering elite athletes the opportunity to prepare for the Olympic and Paralympic games.

The academy's work is complemented by the SMPP.

The sports-academy system comprises a significant aspect of the delivery system in sport and recreation at high-performance level and will eventually provide the necessary support for talented athletes, ensuring that those from disadvantaged backgrounds receive the support they need.

Government allocated R15 million to sports academies in 2005/06.

Sporting accolades

South African Sports Awards

The SRSA and Sascoc are joint custodians of the South African Sports Awards, in partnership with the SABC. South African sports stars are presented with awards for their efforts to keep the passion of sport alive in the hearts of millions of South Africans through their achievements in local or international sports events.

The awards recognise and honour individuals and teams who have excelled both on and off the field each year.

Legislation

In 2006, several pieces of legislation were referred to the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces for consideration. Prominent among these was the 2010 Fifa World Cup Special Measures Bill that seeks to amend all 'non-money' Acts that may impede the implementation of guarantees that government provided to Fifa when bidding for the event.

The Safety at Sport and Recreation Events Bill was also put before Cabinet for consideration. It constitutes an important tool in the security arrangements for the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

During 2006, Cabinet passed the Sport and Recreation Amendment Bill and the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport Amendment Bill. The former aims to improve the governance of sports federations, and allows the Minister of Sport and Recreation to intervene where the actions of federations threaten to bring sport into disrepute. The South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport Amendment Bill aims at improving the efficiency of the institute at countering athletes' use of banned performance-enhancing substances.

National orders are the highest awards that the country can bestow on individual South Africans.

On 27 September 2006, President Thabo Mbeki presented the Order of Ikhamanga, to:

- Ryk Neethling and Roland Schoeman for excellent achievements in the field of swimming
- George Singh (posthumous) for an excellent contribution to soccer and to non-racism, non-sexism and justice in sport and society
- Oscar Pistorius for inspiring achievements in athletics and contributing to the well-being of disabled people in Africa
- Sibusisi Vilane for excellent achievement and inspiring interest in mountaineering.

Sports organisations

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

The SASC Act, 1998 (Act 109 of 1998), provided for a commission to administer sport and recreation under the guidance of the Minister of Sport and Recreation. In 2005, the SASC Repeal Act, 2005 (Act 8 of 2005), de-established the SASC. The functions of the SASC are now shared between SRSA and Sascoc.

Sascoc is the controlling body for all high-performance sport in South Africa. It also controls the preparation and delivery of Team South Africa at all multisport international games, including the Olympic, Paralympic, Commonwealth, World and All-Africa games.

It has assumed functions relating to high-performance sport that were carried out by the following controlling bodies: Disability Sport South Africa, the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, South African Commonwealth Games Association, SASC, South African Student Sports Union, and the United School Sports Association of South Africa.

Sascoc also:

- affiliates to and/or is recognised by the appropriate regional, international and continental sports organisations for high-performance sport
- initiates, negotiates, arranges, finances and controls multisport tours to and from South Africa
- ensures, and if necessary, approves that the bidding process relating to the hosting of international or any other sporting events in South Africa complies with the necessary rules and regulations

In August 2006, the South African Rugby Union and SuperSport television channel launched a high-performance academy for rugby that will be based at the Bushman Sands Resort in Alicedale.

The institute will offer an elite one-year programme that will accommodate 30 players aged between 17 and 20 from across the country. Besides training future Springboks, the institute will also train national teams, match officials, coaches and administrators.

- facilitates the acquisition and development of playing facilities, including the construction of stadiums and other sports facilities
- ensures close co-operation between government and the private sector relating to all aspects of Team South Africa
- ensures the overall protection of symbols, trademarks, emblems or insignia of the bodies under its jurisdiction.

Boxing South Africa

Boxing South Africa was established in terms of the South African Boxing Act, 2001 (Act 11 of 2001), and is partly funded with public money. Its functions are to promote boxing and to protect the interests of boxers and officials. Its main responsibilities are to:

- consider applications for licences from all stakeholders in professional boxing
 - sanction fights
 - implement the regulations pertaining to boxing
 - promote the interests of all stakeholders in boxing.
- Boxing South Africa's academy was launched in August 2003. It was established using part of the R27 million invested in boxing by cellular service-provider Vodacom. The academy is spearheaded by the Sports Information and Science Agency in conjunction with the University of Pretoria's High-Performance Centre.

The academy offers boxers high-performance physical fitness, athletics and life skills.

During 2004/05 and 2005/06, Boxing South Africa trained many boxers, promoters, ring officials and trainer/managers, either meeting or exceeding its stated target in all but a few categories. Boxing South Africa intends focusing on informal training in life skills, weight management, taxation, ring mechanics, boxing regulation and television interviewing for some 100 boxers, 47 managers and 51 matchmakers during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (Sais)

Sais is the South African national anti-doping organisation. It is a public entity established by the Drug-Free Sport Act, 1977 (Act 14 of 1997), and funded by the SRSA, with a mandate to promote participation in sport free from the use of prohibited substances or methods intended to artificially enhance performance, in the interest of the health and well-being of sportspeople.

Saids is responsible for developing anti-doping policy and implementing a national anti-doping programme across all South Africa's sports codes. It has 54 part-time, accredited doping-control officers based throughout South Africa, who are trained to international standards, who conduct in- and out-of competition testing on athletes from 57 sporting disciplines, with 76 trained and accredited chaperones to assist the doping-control officers.

Saids is one of few national anti-doping agencies worldwide with ISO 9001:2000 certification in compliance with the International Testing Standards. This is the internationally recognised benchmark for quality assurance and excellence, and represents world best-practice in doping control in sport.

Saids' key focus areas are:

- **Drug testing:** The institute conducts a comprehensive, independent and effective national drug-testing programme on South African athletes competing at regional, national and international level. Over 2 300 tests were conducted in 2005/06. It also conducts in- and out-of-competition testing on international athletes on behalf of international sports federations and other international anti-doping organisations.
- **Education:** Saids provides education and information resources and services for all its target groups, namely athletes, coaches, parents, sports organisations, members of the medical and pharmaceutical and sports-science professions, tertiary-education institutions and the public. It provides a telephone information service manned by qualified pharmacists (021 448 3888), and has a website with a database of banned and permitted products in sport that are available on the South African market. It also contains up-to-date news and information on national and international anti-doping issues (www.drugfreesport.org.za).
- Saids conducts a comprehensive monthly programme of lectures, 'train-the-trainer' workshops and anti-doping seminars throughout South Africa, and collaborates with role-players in education to include sports drugs in drug-awareness and education programmes conducted at school level.
- **Research:** Saids conducts sociological research into the knowledge, attitude and use of performance-enhancing drugs among South African sportspeople, for the purpose of planning

and implementing effective drug-testing and education programmes.

- **International collaboration:** South Africa is an active participant in the global effort to combat drugs in sport, and Saids collaborates closely with its counterparts throughout the world to achieve international harmonisation and the improvement of standards and practice in doping control. South Africa is a member of the 13-country International Anti-Doping Arrangement and of the Executive Committee of the International Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations. It collaborates with other countries in Africa to determine and develop anti-doping strategy in accordance with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code.

World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada)

The Africa Regional Office of Wada was established in Cape Town in 2004 to co-ordinate the anti-doping activities of the agency throughout Africa. This includes promoting and maintaining effective lines of communication between Wada and all the relevant stakeholders, governments and public authorities, the broad sports movement, national anti-doping agencies and laboratories.

2006 sports highlights

Commonwealth Games

In March 2006, Team South Africa returned from Melbourne, Australia, with 38 medals in total, including 12 gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze. They finished in fifth position overall on the medals table. This is the best-ever performance by a South African team.

In May 2006, South African wheelchair racing athlete Ernst van Dyk won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award for an athlete with a disability at a gala function in Barcelona.

The 'Oscars of Sport' are awarded annually, and winners are chosen by 42 sporting greats who make up the Laureus World Sports Academy.

Van Dyk is a six-time winner of the Boston Marathon, and is the world record holder in the wheelchair marathon.

In the past year, besides winning the Boston Marathon, he won the New York and Los Angeles marathons in record time, and the Paris Marathon and the Oita Marathon in Japan.

The medal winners were:

Gold

- Aquatics
 - SA 4 x 100 m freestyle relay (Roland Schoeman, Ryk Neethling, Lyndon Ferns, Gerhard Zandberg)
 - Roland Schoeman (50 m butterfly)
 - Roland Schoeman (50 m freestyle)
 - Natalie du Toit (100 m Elite Athlete with Disability (EAD) freestyle)
 - Natalie du Toit (50 m EAD freestyle – world record in heats and final).
- Athletics
 - Sunette Viljoen (javelin)
 - Janus Robberts (shot put)
 - Elizna Naudé (discus throw)
 - Anika Smit (high jump)
 - LJ van Zyl (400 m hurdles).
- Boxing
 - Bongani Mwelase (welterweight division, 69 kg).
- Shooting
 - Diane Swanton (trap shooting).

Silver

- Aquatics
 - George du Randt (200 m backstroke)
 - Ryk Neethling (100 m freestyle).
- Athletics
 - Geraldine Pillay (100 m)
 - Hilton Langenhoven (100 m T12 EAD)
 - Alwyn Myburgh (400 m hurdles)
 - David Roos (200 m T46 EAD)
 - Khotso Mokoena (triple jump)
 - 4 x 100 m relay (men)
 - 4 x 400 m relay (men).
- Boxing
 - Jackson Chauke (flyweight, 51 kg).
- Cycling
 - David George (cycling road race).
- Shooting
 - Esmari van Reenen (50 m rifle 3)
 - Byron Swanton (double trap shooting).

Bronze

- Aquatics
 - Suzaan van Biljon (200 m breaststroke)
 - Roland Schoeman (100 m freestyle)
 - Lize Mari Retief (50 m butterfly)
 - Gerhard Zandberg (50 m backstroke)
 - Troyden Prinsloo (1 500 m freestyle).

- Athletics
 - Geraldine Pillay (200 m)
 - Chris Harmse (hammer throw).
- Gymnastics
 - Francki van Rooyen (Women's artistic, floor event).
- Lawn Bowls
 - Neil Burkett, Eric Johannes, Gideon Vermeulen (Men's trips)
 - Lorna Trigwell (Women's singles)
- Shooting
 - Allan MacDonald, Daniel van Tonder (25 m centre fire pistol pairs)
 - Allan MacDonald, Daniel van Tonder (25 m standard pistol pairs)
- Weightlifting
 - Babalwa Ndeleleni (Ladies 75 kg category)

Athletics

In August 2006, South African athletes returned from the 15th African Athletics Championships in Mauritius after retaining their number-one spot in Africa and increasing their medals tally.

The youthful team, half of whom competed in international competition for only the first or second time, won 10 gold, 12 silver and five bronze medals, in difficult, windy conditions.

The female athletes won six of the gold medals, with outstanding performances from Janice Josephs in the heptathlon, and newcomer Rene van der Merwe, who won gold in her first international competition for high jump.

Justine Robbeson (javelin), Elizna Naudé (discus) and Janet Wienand (400 m hurdles) won individual gold medals, while the 4 x 400 m relay team of Amanda Kotze, Estie Wittstock, Heide Seyerling and Janet Wienand were also victorious.

Chris Harmse won gold in the hammer throw with a season's best of 77,55 m, setting a new Africa record.

Okkert Brits won gold in the pole vault event.

LJ van Zyl beat his compatriot and training partner Alwyn Myburgh to take gold in the 400 m hurdles and Gerhardus Pienaar won gold for javelin throw.

Mbulaeni Mulaudzi, who competed in the fourth International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) World Finals in September 2006, achieved his fifth consecutive win in recent races, winning R210 000 and ending the year as the world's undisputed number one. His time was the fastest of the year.

Five South Africans competed in African colours on the opening day of the IAAF's 10th World Cup meeting in Athens, Greece, in September 2006. LJ van Zyl recorded his third successive second place in a major international meeting in several weeks. African record-holder in the women's javelin event, Justine Robberson, won a bronze medal.

Boxing

In June 2006, Cassius Baloyi achieved an important milestone for South African boxing, knocking out Manuel Medina in the 11th round of the International Boxing Federation (IBF) and International Boxing Organisation junior-lightweight unification bout to claim the two world titles.

The win earned Baloyi his fourth world title, equalling the record of Baby Jake Matlala. His stoppage victory marked the first time a South African boxer had won a meaningful world title since Corrie Saunders was crowned World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion in 2003.

The last time a South African fighter held an IBF title was in 2001 when Lehlohonolo Ledwaba and Zolani Petelo held the junior-featherweight and straw-weight titles respectively.

Cricket

In March 2006, South Africa smashed 438/9 at the Wanderers in Johannesburg to beat Australia and win the One-Day International (ODI) series 3-2. The 32 000 spectators who packed the Wanderers enjoyed a day to remember, and had much to cheer about, as both teams reached their highest totals at nearly nine runs an over.

It was the highest aggregate of runs in any ODI, and the first time any team had scored more than 400 runs. Australia contributed 44 fours and 14 sixes, while South Africa hit 44 fours and 12 sixes.

In May, South Africa won the third test against New Zealand to win the series. Makhaya Ntini was named player of the series. In total, during the summer, he dismissed 47 batsmen at a rate of 24,43 per wicket.

Cycling

In February 2006, David George of the South African national team won Malaysia's Le Tour de Langkawi; the first time a rider from a non-trade outfit claimed Asia's biggest cycling title. George

took the yellow jersey as the overall leader based on his total time of 26, 43, 55 for nine stages of the race covering 1 105 kilometres.

In August 2006, Cape Town-based team CSC/CVT's Abdelbasset Hannachi became the Arabian national road champion after winning the under-23-elite and elite categories in Dubai. At the time, Hannachi was the Western Province under-23 and time-trial champion.

Team CSC/CVT beat Team HSBC to win top team honours in the six-stage five-day Tour de Maurice, which took place between 30 August and 3 September 2006 in Mauritius.

Canoeing

South Africa won the annual canoeing tri-nations competition in Australia in August 2006 during the Multiplex Avon Descent, with Sven Bruss and Abbey Miedema winning the men's and women's kayak sections in extremely low river conditions.

In September 2006, Shaun Rubenstein became the canoeing marathon world champion when he beat six-time world champion Manuel Busto Fernandes in the men's K1 World Championship race on the Dordogne River in Termolat, France.

Dakar rally

In January 2006, Giniel de Villiers, driving a Volkswagen Touareg 2 Prototype, achieved second place in the 15-day, 9 000-km Lisbon-to-Dakar Rally, finishing only 17 minutes behind the leader.

In September 2006, Cape Town's Grand Parade hosted the Homeless World Cup. It is a football event in which homeless people from across the world participate in an international football tournament that not only highlights their plight, but also creates opportunities for them to emerge from their social conditions. The success rate of the tournament is impressive. In the past, 38% of players have found regular employment, 46% have improved their housing situation, 34% have pursued education, 27% have addressed their drug dependency and 72% are continuing their participation in football. Sixteen participants have been signed up with professional or semi-professional football clubs. Forty-eight nations participated in the 2006 event, with Russia claiming the title after beating Kazakhstan in the final.

Golf

In January 2006, Sweden captured the Women's World Cup of Golf title at the Gary Player Country Club at Sun City, North West. Teamed with Liselotte Neumann, Annika Sorenstam, with a strong performance that included an eagle on the par-five 14th hole in the final round, helped Sweden to a seven-under-par total of 281, three shots clear of Scotland's Catriona Matthew and Janice Moodie, and seven ahead of the third-placed Welsh duo of Rebecca Brewerton and Becky Morgan.

Hosts South Africa, who began the final round in 12th spot, moved up the standings to tie with Finland for seventh place on 292.

In February 2006, South African Rory Sabbatini claimed victory in the Nissan Open at the Riviera Country Club, pocketing US\$918 000 – his biggest pay cheque yet.

In May 2006, South Africa's Hendrik Buhrmann ended an 11-year wait to win his maiden title in Asia, seizing the inaugural US\$400 000 Aamby Valley Asian Masters.

Ten stadiums will be used for the Fifa Soccer World Cup in 2010.



There will be five new stadiums, while five existing stadiums will be upgraded for the world's most popular sporting event.

Three existing stadiums in South Africa's major metropolis, Gauteng, will be upgraded. These are Soccer City (FNB stadium) and Ellis Park in Johannesburg, and Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria. The Royal Bafokeng stadium in North West will be upgraded, as will Vodacom Park in Mangaung (Bloemfontein) in the Free State.

Five new stadiums will be built or rebuilt. In Limpopo, the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane will host World Cup games. New stadiums will also be built at Mbombela in Mpumalanga, and in the Nelson Mandela Metro (encompassing Port Elizabeth) in the Eastern Cape.

Kings Park stadium in Durban will be rebuilt for the event, becoming a multi-sports facility.

In the Western Cape, Cape Town's Green Point stadium will be rebuilt, becoming a new multi-purpose sports facility complete with a retractable dome.

In July 2006, Trevor Immelman claimed his first United States (US) PGA Tour title. He held off Tiger Woods and Matthew Goggin to claim victory by two shots. With rounds of 69, 66, 69 and 67, he finished 13-under par 271.

On the same day, third-round leader Ashleigh Simon of Johannesburg fended off a charging girls division to win her first-ever US Junior Golf Association Tournament at Hiwan Golf Club in Colorado.

In October 2006, Retief Goosen shot a final round one-under par 71 to defend his Volkswagen Masters title in Sanya, China.

At the end of October 2006, 49 women's teams participated in the World Amateur Team Championships at the De Zalze and Stellenbosch golf clubs. The South African team of Ashleigh Simon, Kelli Shean and Stacy Bregman made history at De Zalze when they won the championship after a nail-biting play-off.

Ice hockey

South Africa's under-18 ice hockey team participated in Division III of the 2006 World Championships held in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania, in March 2006. The team won a bronze medal, with Israel taking silver, and the hosts, Romania, winning gold.

Marathons

In April 2006, South African wheelchair athlete Ernst van Dyk recorded his sixth consecutive victory in the prestigious Boston Marathon, decimating a quality field of challengers. Another South African, Krige Schabort, finished second. Van Dyk led from the start, racing into the lead and never being challenged as he finished in a time of 1,25,29. Schabort finished in 1,29,4.

In October 2006, Hendrick Ramaala captured the Great North Run half-marathon for the third time in London in a time of 1,1,3.

Motor racing

In January 2006, Durban hosted the South African leg of the A1 Grand Prix – the only street race of the 12-event series. Around 100 000 spectators from home and abroad lined the specially created track.

Ex-Formula One driver Jos Verstappen of the Netherlands won the feature event.

South African Adrian Zaugg made his debut in and won the A1 Grand Prix sprint at Zandvoort in the Netherlands at the end of September 2006.

Mountaineering

Eveline Tshabalala, Zukiswa Matamo and Nomawethu Nika from Mandela Park informal settlement in Hout Bay, Cape Town, intend to climb the highest mountains on each of the seven continents and in the process become the first black women to climb Everest.

Matamo and Nika summited Mount Elbrus in Russia in September 2006. Tshabalala summited Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro in July 2006 with Matamo following suit in August. The women intended to climb Aconcagua in Argentina between December 2006 and January 2007.

Less than 200 people have conquered the so-called Seven Summits, which are Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa; Elbrus in Russia, Europe; Vinson Massif in Antarctica; McKinley in Alaska, North America; Kosciuszko in Australia, Australasia/Oceania; Aconcagua in Argentina, South America; and Mount Everest in Nepal, Asia.

Paddling

In May 2006, Durban ski paddler Clint Pretorius won the gruelling Molokai Challenge, beating 11-time champion Oscar Chalupsky to the title after a thrilling dice to the finish line. The 21-year-old finished the tough 55-km crossing from Molokai to Oahu just one minute short of the race record.

Rugby

In June 2006, South Africa won the test series against Scotland 2-0. After losing their away games in the Vodacom Tri-Nations, South Africa scored a 21-20 win over New Zealand in Rustenburg in September 2006. A week later, South Africa beat Australia 24-16 in the final test of the Vodacom Tri-Nations.

Soccer

In October 2006, Bafana Bafana beat Zambia, scoring the only goal in a crucial African Nations Cup 2008 qualifier. The win lifted South Africa to the top of the African Cup of Nations qualifying group 11.

Surfing

In February 2006, Grant 'Twiggy' Baker from South Africa won the Mavericks surf contest, besting California riders in an event many refer to as 'the Super Bowl of surfing'.

In July 2006, Hank McGregor bagged the biggest purse in surf-ski racing after a thrilling duel with Dawid Mocke in the Surf Ski World Cup in Durban. Also in July, Ricky Basnett from Durban won the Six Star World Qualifying Series surfing, becoming South Africa's first winner since the legendary Shaun Tomson back in 1978.

Swimming

In January 2006, Ryk Neethling won three gold medals at the FINA World Cup meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.

In April 2006, Neethling won the opening gold medal of the World Short-Course Swimming Championships in Shanghai. Neethling, who led from the outset, held off a late challenge from European champion Filippo Magnini to take the 200 m freestyle in 1,43,51.

He also won the 100 m freestyle in 47,24.

Just 40 minutes later, Neethling lined up for the 100 m individual medley which he won in a championship record of 52,42.

In August 2006, Roland Schoeman set a world record in the 50 m freestyle, while also winning the 100 m individual medley at the Deutsche Ring Aquatics Short-Course Competition in Hamburg.

The 26-year-old sprint ace became the first man in history to break the 21-second barrier in the 50 m freestyle, touching in 20,98 to shave 0,12 seconds off the previous mark set by France's Fred Bousquet.

In April 2006, CEO for A1 South Africa, Dana Cooper, received the Award for Best Presented Event in recognition of the A1 Grand Prix's first street race in Durban, South Africa, in January 2006. A1 seat-holder Tokyo Sexwale won the award for Most Supportive Franchisee, along with Colin Giltrap from A1 Team New Zealand and Emerson Fittipaldi from A1 Team Brazil. Another winner was Stephen Simpson, the young South African who won Most Improved Driver.

Acknowledgements

Beeld

Disability Sport South Africa

Estimates of National Expenditure 2006, published by National Treasury
Standard Bank

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport

Sowetan

Sport and Recreation South Africa

The Star

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