Let's Confed, Africa! - Another step on the path towards an African World Cup

Editorial by Kelly Mkhonto, Director Mass Participation SRSA

Less than six weeks to go to the Confederations Cup kick off and the countdown for the FIFA World Cup 2010™ continues. SRSA together with the The Youth Development through Football (YDF) have planned activities around the Confed Cup in four provinces, Gauteng, Mzumalanga, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape. This second big milestone on the road to 2010 once again emphasizes our intention to celebrate an African Football World Cup and our commitment to intercultural exchange. An ‘Africa United’ Team will integrate YDF partners from Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Zambia, Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda together with teams from the South African provinces. The teams will compete on the ball during the ‘grand finalle’ which takes place between 26 and 28 June 2009. Girls and Boys aged 14 to 16 years and Coordinators aged 20 to 35 will represent their countries at this event. After the Confed Cup these ‘ambassadors’ will carry the enthusiasm for the mega-event into their respective countries in order to create a first World Cup hype back home.

This will be our third major step on the path towards an African World Cup. The 2010 Mass mobilisation kick started beginning of the year in Kimberley and the Eastern Cape and this was followed by the Peace Caravan road shows in East Africa.

The overall objective of the Peace Caravan was to increase public awareness of peace and this was followed by the Peace Caravan road shows in East Africa.

In March 2009, SRSA and GTZ’s Youth Development through Football (YDF) project initiated the 2009 Peace Caravan tour of the Great Lakes Region in East Africa. The idea was supported by the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and the Rwandese Ministry of Sports and Culture and it was implemented by the non-governmental organization Esperance based in Kigali, Rwanda.

The overall objective of the Peace Caravan was to increase public awareness of peace and cooperation in this formerly war torn and strife ridden zones of East Africa, using the enthusiasm for football as a catalyst for lasting positive social change. Immediate objectives were twofold: To convey the idea of an Africa world cup and to sensitize and mobilize Africa’s youth in this region for the world cup event to be held for the first time ever on African soil in South Africa in 2010. Furthermore, to foster youth development through football with the aim of leaving a lasting effect on young people far beyond the final whistle at the world cup event.

Even though the events were spiced with a lot of fun and festivities, they were also educational and incorporated lifeskills and learning opportunities for both spectators and participants alike. The idea being that each station was to be a unique learning experience and this was followed by the Peace Caravan road shows in East Africa.

Lessons on lifeskills such as conflict resolution, fair play, peaceful co-existence and peace-building, formed the core themes of the program. Other relevant and important issues addressed included region specific problems such as crime and violence, HIV and AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse. The lesson was to encourage young people to abstain from any form of self-destructive, harmful and anti-social/deviant behavior.

Also discussed was the issue of gender equality, whereby the skills and abilities of women were recognized and the spectators encouraged to afford equal opportunities to women and girls a point that was emphasized in the various theatrical performances and football games by the Peace Caravan teams.
Far beyond the final whistle

Kimberly, 27 January 2009. It’s beyond doubt that the FIFA World Cup 2010 is of outstanding significance for South Africa and its citizens. However, the South African Government is rightly ambitious: It wants the game to leave a legacy far beyond the final whistle. It has therefore launched a ‘2010 mass mobilisation programme’ some 500 days ahead of the World Cup that will be managed and coordinated by the Department of Sports and Recreation (SRSA) together with the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

The event took part at Kimberly’s Galeshewe Stadium in the Northern Cape on 27 January 2009. Not only bigwigs, but also school children and community members met to get the Legacy Campaign on the road. By means of a road show, the initiative will target the youth in South Africa’s provinces and convey the excitement for the FIFA World Cup to those areas that do not host the games.

The Mass Mobilisation Programme aims at speeding up sports development in communities and schools through targeted training programmes. In turn, sport will serve as a catalyst to develop skills and capacities of boys and girls and to empower them to actively improve their future perspectives. Therefore a life skills curriculum will be integrated into the football coaching course for the coaches at provincial levels. Amongst other activities, the 2010 ambassadors, present at the launch, will conduct the coaching clinics during the road shows. The last road show is scheduled to coincide with the Confed Cup’s kick-off.

The Legacy Campaign is implemented in partnership with the Provincial Departments of Sport, Arts & Culture and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) actively supports the Campaign through its ‘Youth Development through Football’ project.
Means and targets of SRSA's Legacy Campaign

Pretoria, 19 February 2009. The 2010 Mass Mobilisation and Legacy programme of the Department of Sport and Recreation has been mandated to implement a 2010 Mass Mobilisation and Legacy Programme for Government that aims at using sport, primarily football, as a catalyst for community development and to address issues of youth empowerment, and, to some extent, social cohesion.

The programme will be implemented through a series of road shows concurrently targeted to elate South Africans on the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Confederations Cup™ and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. The road shows are implemented in partnership with the national Department of Sport and Recreation, Provincial Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture, the 2010 World Cup Organising Committee, the German Technical Co-operation (GTZ), and key national government departments and agencies represented in the 2010 National Communication Partnership.

The launch of the 2010 Mass Mobilisation road show took place on 27 January 2009 at Galeshewe Stadium in Kimberley. From the Northern Province the road show pushes along towards the Eastern Cape, where two events will be hosted in Aliwal North in Ukahlamba District Municipality and Chris Hani District Municipality in Queenstown on 27 and 28 February 2009 respectively.

The road show as part of SRSA's Legacy campaign and Mass Participation Programme is targeted towards mobilising communities to rally their support behind the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup (2009 FCC) and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ (2010 FWC). It also aims at strengthening and positioning the Public/Private Partnerships to support the two tournaments, as these major events call for the participation of all South Africans.

A series of activities are already mooted by several partners including South African Provinces. 2010 FIFA World Cup commercial affiliates pilot and implement the public viewing areas concept at 2009 FCC and 2010 FWC respectively. Government is currently consolidating its capacity including the provision of communication systems, emergency services, transportation and safety and security to ensure all fans are safe and protected.

The 2010 Mass Mobilisation Programme will be used to incorporate the culture of sports and recreation into the communities in order to create a legacy beyond the tournaments. Sport in turn will serve as a catalyst for youth development and empowerment. Therefore, coaching clinics will be implemented and partners identified in each of the provinces during the road shows by the 2010 Ambassadors. GTZ is in the process of forming a strategic partnership with the South African Football Association (SAFA) that will see at least 350 football coaches around the country trained according to a life skills curriculum. Government will provide sports equipment in the form of soccer balls to identify beneficiaries for club development at local levels.

Last but not least the road shows will present opportunities for the public to interact with Zakumi, the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ mascot.

The 2010 Mass Mobilisation Programme, in addition, also speaks to the objectives of the Football for Hope Centres, a FIFA initiative. FIFA will establish twenty centres across the African Continent, with five in South Africa.

Government and the 2010 Organising Committee have recently launched the schools 2010 Football World Cup to empower both educators and learners on the significance of football in developing South Africa’s youth. Through this programme, more than 10,000 educators will receive training and capacity development in various technical sport skills. U14 and U18 age groups of boys and girls from 81 districts around the country are participating.

As information dissemination and people's attendance are success factors of the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup™ and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, direct interaction with existing supporters' clubs at all fifty two SAFA regions will form the cornerstone in the rollout of the programme. Promotional activities will be strategically implemented to ensure the visibility of progress made towards the tournaments.

SRSA and SAFA are currently finalising a tender process to cooperate in establishing, strengthening and mobilising supporter clubs for the national football team, Bafana Bafana. Government is also in interaction with the Coalition of Supporters’ Union of Africa to ensure broader mobilisation of supporters from across the African continent.
Champions League Football, Street Football

Mamelodi, 4 February 2009. Black clouds hung over Mamelodi on 4 February 2009 as members of the Sports Committee of the German Bundestag and representatives of the German embassy in South Africa visited GTZ’s Youth Development through Football (YDF) project in the Pretoria township. The budding football stars greeted their visitors with enthusiasm despite the weather. The parliamentarians from the CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Die Linke political parties had come to South Africa to gain information about the progress of preparations on site. Starting with ‘Soccer City’, where the opening and final games of the FIFA World Cup will be played, their trip took them to Mahlasedi Masani Primary School in Mamelodi – far from the Champions League – to street football.

This is where GTZ, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), set up a 20 - by 40 -metre street football field according to international regulation standards. This street soccer pitch has made it possible to turn the idea of youth development through football, and the aims of the YDF, into a living reality in a difficult environment. Mamelodi is not only one of Tshwane's most densely populated regions but also one of the poorest. Education remains inadequate, and the unemployment rate is 55 per cent. Like all townships in South Africa, Mamelodi is facing complex social and economic problems. The HIV/AIDS rate is high, and many children grow up with only one parent or none at all. Young people here have little opportunity of any kind, and adults who might serve as role models are few and far between.

In this environment, schools take on particular significance. This is why YDF launched its Mamelodi 8 project here in October 2007, with eight elementary schools in the township participating. The project takes advantage of the young people's enthusiasm for football to foster abilities that they can use themselves to improve their chances in life. Besides fair play, team spirit and solidarity, environmental awareness is also playfully introduced and heightened; the young people's creativity is nurtured; the risk of HIV and AIDS is brought home to them, and they are taught prevention methods. Gender aspects have a particularly high value, as both girls and boys play on all football teams.

GTZ Country Director Peter Conze had introduced the parliamentarians to the Study and Expert Fund for the 2010 FIFA World Cup before their visit to Mamelodi. This fund – together with InWent’s Host City programme – supports South Africa with experience and know-how gained during preparations for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.
YDF press release: Animating an African World Cup

Caravanamani takes off to promote peace building through football and to enthuse for 2010.

Five years after a group of some 50 people toured the countries of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo on a peace mission, the Rwandan capital of Kigali will again serve as starting point for a Peace Caravan. From 9 March 2009 onwards 'Caravanamani', which means 'Peace Caravan' in Swahili, will travel the Great Lakes Region, embedding the countries of Burundi, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. 'This time the Peace Caravan will convey a twofold mission', explains Gerald Guskowski, Manager of the GTZ project on Youth Development through Football. 'It is going to animate the idea of an African FIFA Confederations Cup 2009TM and FIFA World Cup 2010TM by carrying the South African enthusiasm to these countries. At the same Caravanamani will use football as a tool for peace building and social inclusion in Africa' World Cup 'ambassadors' from South Africa will join the caravan and participants of the caravan will in turn join the kick-off to the Confed Cup in South Africa in June. Alongside a number of bigwigs World Cup Mascot Zakumi is expected to participate in Caravanamani's Opening Ceremony.

Each partner country will be represented by 6 people aged 18 to 30 years. Each group will contribute a specific element, such as Football Forum Theatre, Street Style Football, Sketches and Stand-up Comedy, Marching Bands, Pop Music or Jazz-Dance. These elements will be integrated into a programme comprising football matches and life skills components mediated throughout workshops, training seminars and presentations. The caravan will tour the countries for about three weeks with the closing ceremony coming to a full circle and again taking place in Kigali on 29 March 2009.

The 2009 Peace Caravan is set up in cooperation between the Department for Sport & Recreation South Africa (SRSA) and the Youth Development through Football (YDF) -project of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). It is supported by the Local Organizing Committee South Africa (LOC) as well as the Rwandan Ministry of Sports and Culture and implemented by the local Rwandan non-governmental organisation Esperance. The South African 'ambassadors' were recruited in collaboration with the South African non-governmental organisation '1-PAL'.

Caravanamani is part of South African Government's Legacy Campaign and the Sport and Recreation Department's Mass Participation Programme. It is jointly funded by YDF and SRSA.

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A Football World Cup for Africa

On 9 March 2009 Caravanamani set off for the Great Lake countries

The desire for peace for all Africans and the common wish for fair play, unity, sportsmanship and successful tournaments come 2010 destined the spirit of Caravanamani’s kickoff. The centre and surrounding streets were abuzz with on-lookers from the neighbouring location, when the opening ceremony for the Peace Caravan tour of the Great Lake Region took place at the Kimisagara Youth Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, on 9 March 2009. More than 2000 people had gathered under the scorching heat of the midmorning equatorial sun. The excitement could not have been more fitting for this multinational event that attracted the attention of national and multinational media. 36 young people from the participating countries of South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, all dressed in ‘caravanamani’ t-shirts and black caps, had set out for Kigali to be part of this cross-national peace promotion initiative.

Eager spectators, young and old alike, lined the youth centre sports area and soon it was filled to capacity. The crowd waited patiently for the festivities to begin. The people from the neighbouring location of Kimisagara lined the streets as far as the eye could see and at their homes up the hills, people could be seen looking down in curious anticipation of what was about to take place in their neighbourhood.

The opening Ceremony for the Peace Caravan was a grand display of young talent. The festivities began with performances on the pitch by the various teams represented, comprising cultural dancing and contemporary hip hop, a brass band, football theatrics by the local Esperance group, gymnastics, a karate act, a mixed team mini soccer match and music. Football acrobatics displayed by the team from South Africa was a hot favourite.

In true football fashion and with the guests standing in attention to show their respect, the arrival of the dignitaries was marked by the brass band’s rendition of the National Anthems of all the six partner countries. Needless to say, that the arrival of World Cup mascot ‘Zakumi’, accompanied by South African soccer legend and 2010-ambassador Mark Fish, on the pitch, marked the highlight for the outdoor displays. The crowd could no longer restrain themselves and broke rank running into the stadium to get closer to Zakumi. Many just wanted just to touch him and prove to themselves if Zakumi was real or not! Others were after the bag of goodies in Mark Fish’s hands. However, the ever ready chaperones were quick to get everyone back behind the boundaries.

The dignitaries present included representatives from the Rwandese Ministry of Sport & Culture led by Minister Joseph Havineza. Also present were the German Ambassador for Rwanda, Christian Clages, and South African Embassy’s First Secretary, Booi Mbelengwa.

A strong delegation from South Africa included teams from the Department of Sports and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) led by Director General, Vernie Peterson, from the FIFA World Cup 2010TM Local Organizing Committee (LOC) office led by Director of Communications, Richard Mkondo, from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) led by Youth Development through Football (YDF) Project Manager Gerald Guskowski and from the German Development Service (DED). Director Gerd Scheuerpflug led the local Rwandan non-governmental organisation Esperance and Director Nkuli Ndamase the South African NGO 1PAL.

Entertainment from the local dance group was followed by speeches delivered by the senior officials from countries and organizations participating on the peace caravan. Rwandan Minister Joseph Havineza pledged support for the African legacy and mass mobilization initiative and announced that as many Rwandan nationals were mobilized and ready for the World Cup. To the cheering of the crowd, he even promised to set up a public viewing facility at the Kimisagara Youth Centre so that this community too can experience the World Cup.

Continues on next page.
A Football World Cup for Africa cont.

The South African Director General echoed the Minister’s support and extended his invitation that South Africa would like to see as many representatives from the continent as possible during the FIFA Confederations Cup June 2009™ and during the World Cup 2010™. He encouraged the participants of the Peace Caravan to carry their message of peace to every stop they make during the peace caravan and to represent their countries well and wished everyone a safe and peaceful tour of East Africa.

In the afternoon of 9 March 2009 the workshop program for the Peace Caravan started. During the following three days the team prepared their journey to Bujumbura in neighbouring Burundi, the second station on their peace mission. Here the opening ceremony starts on Sunday, March 15, 2009.

The Peace Caravan has been set up in cooperation between SRSA and YDF. It is supported by LOC as well as the Rwandan Ministry of Sports and Culture and implemented by Esperance and 1PAL. Caravanamani is part of South African Government’s Legacy Campaign and the Sport and Recreation Department’s Mass Participation Programme. It is jointly funded by YDF and SRS. The Peace Caravan is supposed to animate the idea of an African FIFA Confederations Cup 2009™ and FIFA World Cup 2010™ by carrying the South African enthusiasm to these countries. At the same time the Caravan will use football as a tool for peace building and social inclusion in Africa.

Click here to download the detailed programme for March 9th-13th 2009 >>
Caravanamani on the move

Kick off at Centre Kamenge Bujumbura

Bujumbura, 14 March 2009. Following a week of planning, rehearsal and team building in Rwanda, Caravanamani took off for Burundi and arrived at Bujumbura on 13 March 2009. In this once war torn zone the Peace Caravan again proved to be a crowd puller. In their show on Saturday afternoon the Caravanamani teams worked together as one in their displays of football theatrics, music and dance skills, which they combined with various life skills. They convincingly demonstrated that conflict resolution potential and fair play, both essential on the pitch, can also enhance peaceful co-existence and peace-building among people. The life skills components targeted at peace building also emphasized the issue of gender equality. In its musical performances and football games Caravanamani made it clear that women should be afforded equal opportunities as men. The gathering clouds and threat of a downpour failed to deter the rapidly growing crowd of spectators who continued to pour in at the Centre Kamenge up until the grand finale—a dance performed by the whole team to the theme tune “Caravan Amani” played by the Peace Caravan live band.

Present among the spectators was the first secretary from the German Embassy, who came to support the peace caravan on behalf of the German Ambassador to Burundi and the Centre Kamenge Director Padre Claudio Marano who both assisted with the presentation of gifts to winning members of the audience.

During their weeklong rehearsals in Kigali, the teams had regrouped and formed mixed teams made up of team members from the different partner countries. The teams were grouped according to individual strengths, interest and choice of activity. Therefore, each person could participate in any event according to common interest allowing for the merging of personalities, talents and cultures. For example, the football theatre group had members from all the countries participating in the mixed gender six-a-side soccer teams for the street style football theatrics.

After a theatre performance and the Street Style Football where the peace caravan team played five a side against volunteers from the audience, the Football Forum Theatre involved the on-lookers in a questions and answers session. Other performances included a brass band which rendered the opening act and was followed by the spectacular football acrobatics performed by 1-Pal acrobat Chris Njokwane of South Africa.

A local team of acrobats performed a world class circus style acrobatic display of cartwheels, delicate balancing acts, one wheel cyclists and even formed a twelve men human tower who had the audience in awe during their half hour performance also featuring the flexible “rubber man” as the highlight of their performance. Last but not least, a live afro-jazz performance featured the host country partner and musician Steven Sogo on lead vocals backed by the Caravan Amani brass band, backing vocalists and dancers made up of the participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Burundi.

The Caravanamani East Africa participants included the Rwandan implementing organization Esperance, the Centre Kamenge host group from Bujumbura, Burundi, the Kenyan Voluntary Youth Philanthropists, Uganda’s Rainbow House of Hope, the Youth Group from Mwanza Tanzania and the South African team from “1-PAL” accompanied by GTZ/YDF’s coordinator.

Via Butare in Rwanda, the Peace Caravan’s way leads to Mbarara in Uganda, where it is expected to arrive on Wednesday, 18 March 2009.

Caravanamani is part of the South African Government’s Legacy Campaign and the Sport and Recreation Department’s Mass Participation Programme that strives to incorporate the culture of sports and recreation into the communities in order to create a legacy beyond the tournaments. Sport in turn will serve as a catalyst for youth development and empowerment. Caravanamani is jointly funded by GTZ’s Youth Development through Football project and South Africa’s Department of Sport & Recreation (SRSA).
Back in Rwanda, but still on the move

Heavy rain could not stop the Caravanamani, when it again passed through Rwanda on its way to Uganda

Butare, 17 March 2009. The University Town of Butare came to a near standstill when the Peace Caravan marched through its dusty streets on Tuesday afternoon. The procession kicked off in the centre of the town with the Caravanamani brass band leading the entourage all the way to the town’s stadium. This time however the Caravanamani was not spared from the threatening downpour. With the skies rapidly darkening it became apparent to everyone that it would rain before the show could go far, and by the time the procession with throngs of spectators in tow reached the stadium it poured, throwing the planned programme for the day into shambles.

With no hope of the rain stopping any time soon, the organizers and managers of the programme pondered, but decided to go on with the show. This, however, meant that most of the items that involve open field performances such as the matches had to be cancelled and other stage performances took prominence in communicating the message of peace development through football. Therefore conflict resolution skills, fair play and the questions of how to enhance peaceful co-existence and build peace among all people took centre stage on Tuesday.

The rain kept dignitaries and media away, but not the ordinary people from the communities. To warm up the crowds and liven up the dampened spirits, the show kicked off with a display of acrobatics which indeed got the crowd going and set the mood for engaging in an afternoon of learning and fun. Challenged by the confined space while battling to stay dry in the pouring rain, the crowd was not to be discouraged and eagerly participated. Spectators young and old were challenged to beat the tricks by skilled football acrobat Chris Njokwane of South Africa who never fails to thrill with his highly skilled and comical acrobatics. The group also staged mini dance competitions in order to engage the spectators. The issue of gender equality was especially emphasised, when girls and women took on the challenge posed by the acrobat.

A local band from the Kimisagara Youth Centre in Kigali performed reggae music and the multinational Caravanamani Band sung their message of peace in kiSwahili and French. The Caravanamani dance group marked the end of the afternoon’s activities when they displayed their skills. As fate would have it the rain ceased pouring at exactly the same time that the day’s events were over, leaving the flooded sports arena to tell the tale of how the downpour could not stop the Peace Caravan!

Although other acts such as the football forum theatre, actual soccer matches and contests could not be held due to the wet grounds and lack of alternative space, the crew managed to present a robust program, with lessons on peace development through football communicated to the young people of Butare. From Rwanda’s city of Butare the Caravan towards Mutare in order to enthuse the Ugandan people for the 2009 Confed Cup™ and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ and to convey its message of peace development through football.

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Half way – the Peace Caravan in Uganda

Kampala, 21 March 2009. For four days Uganda was the host country for the Peace Caravan, before it’s participants moved on to Kenya. Caravanamani arrived in Mbarara on Wednesday, 18 March 2009, once again in pouring rain. The resident Deputy District Commissioner for the Mbarara Community, Keith Mugabi, applauded the Peace Caravan initiative to be a success in itself as it had united youngsters from seven different countries. He addressed the youth and encouraged them to stay out of the streets, away from crime, idleness and engaging in life threatening behaviour, such as drugs and alcohol abuse. He supported the Peace Caravan’s attempt to address social ills and restore the spirit of community among participants and young people. Mugabi felt it most suitable that an initiative like Caravanamani travelled the Great Lake region, where there is a history of social strife and conflict, and help young people to focus on the future and on peace building throughout Africa.

It was courageous and touching, when Joan Kyomuhende of ‘The Aids Support Organisation’ (TASO) in Mbarara spoke about her HIV-status and encouraged young people to abstain from engaging in pre-marital sex. She encouraged those in fresh relationships to undergo HIV-testing prior to engaging in sexual activity. As HIV/AIDS is a reality, people infected should address the problem instead of wasting precious time. She saw herself as a positive proof that there is an opportunity for a good life even after testing HIV-positive. Fit and active, Jane participated as a player in the six-a-side team of volunteers from the spectators in the football forum theatre and danced with the Ugandan traditional dance group.

On Friday Caravanamani moved on to Uganda’s capital Kampala where the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Enyia Kageyega, the South African High Commissioner Thanduyise Chiliza, the Kenian High Commissioner S.M. Gitongaand and Rwanda’s High Commissioner Karegesa Kamali welcomed the caravan under the flags of their countries. Finally under clear blue skies, Caravanamani once again attracted quite some media attention with journalists from Ugandan print media, radio and TV stations taking part in the press conference the organizers had invited to.

On Saturday morning the participants of the caravan and its Ugandan partners, ‘Rainbow House of Hope’, the Pan African Movement’s host groups from Uganda, ‘Centre Kamenge’ from Burundi, the Kenian Voluntary Youth Philanthropists, the Youth Group from Mwanza Tanzania and the South African team from “1-PAL” accompanied by GTZ/YDF’s coordinator. From Kampala the Peace Caravan’s way led to Kenya, from where it will push on to Tanzania. The closing ceremony again takes place in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on Sunday, 29 March 2009.

The General Secretary from the Ministry of Education & Sports, Jasper Aligawesa, praised the idea of the Peace Caravan and thanked the organisers to allow for the initiative. He appeared amazed by the football acrobatics performed by the 1-PAL team and invited all caravan members to the friendly match that took place at Kampala’s Nelson Mandela Stadium that afternoon. The Caravanamani’s East Africa participants included the Rwandan implementing organization Esperance, the Rainbow House of Hope and Pan African Movement’s host groups from Uganda, Centre Kamenge’ from Burundi, the Kenian Voluntary Youth Philanthropists, the Youth Group from Mwanza Tanzania and the South African team from “1-PAL” accompanied by GTZ/YDF’s coordinator. From Kampala the Peace Caravan’s way led to Kenya, from where it will push on to Tanzania. The closing ceremony again takes place in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on Sunday, 29 March 2009.

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Tired but happy: Caravanamani’s closing ceremony took place in Kigali on 29 March 2009

Kigali, 29 March 2009. After three weeks of travelling on a mission for peace and an African Football World Cup 2010™ Caravanamani returned to Rwanda and celebrated its closing ceremony at Kigali’s Kimisagara Youth Centre. On 9 March 2009 the Rwandan capital of Kigali had served as starting point for the Caravan that was designed to travel the Great Lakes region. On its twofold mission it embedded the countries of Burundi, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania where it animated the idea of an African FIFA Confederations Cup 2009™ and FIFA World Cup 2010™. At the same time Caravanamani used football as a tool for peace building and social inclusion in Africa. 1-PAL’s world cup ‘ambassadors’ from South Africa were part of the caravan and participants of the caravan will in turn join the kick-off to the Confeder Cup in South Africa in June.

On Sunday afternoon the tour came full circle in Kigali, Rwanda, where it had all begun some three weeks ago. An exceptionally large crowd of spectators welcomed the caravan’s participants back home with festivities underlined by the sounds of fanfares. The Caravan Amani brass band played the national anthems of the six participating countries and all participants were presented on stage, country by country. A Rwandan dance displayed by the Kimisagara Youth Centre was followed by a word of welcome and appreciation by the Deputy Director and Financial Controller at Esperance, Donatien Nsengimiana. Nsengimiana spoke on behalf of the host organizations, the local organizing team Esperance and their YDF/GTZ counterpart from South Africa. In his key note address, Pascale Muparase Mugabe, who represented the Minister of Youth, congratulated the participants of Caravanamani for their commitment and encouraged them to share their experience as peace ambassadors and to serve as a role model for other young people.

For a last time, Esperance presented its formidable Football Forum Theatre. Again the participants engaged the spectators in the game and used football as a catalyst to address social issues such as gender equality, fair play and conflict resolution. 1-PAL’s team from South Africa once again displayed their spectacular football acrobatic and in true Caravanamani spirit local arts and culture groups were invited to form part of the celebrations.

The program closed with a live performance by the Caravanamani band, which had the crowd on their feet when they rendered the now popular Caravan Amani tune. The participants led the crowd with their choreographed dance on the stage floor. And when the crowds made their way back home under the night sky, the participants joined the party that was held in their honor and marked the official closing of the event. A gallery of photos was displayed by photographer David Breimer, which captured some of the special moments of the peace caravan. With the final tune played that evening it was time for the participants to bid each other farewell. There was even a tear or two spotted as the end of the show meant that the members of the group had to prepare to go their separate ways again after three weeks of travelling together.

The Caravanamani’s East Africa participants included the Rwandan implementing organization Esperance, the Rainbow House of Hope and Pan African Movement’s host groups from Uganda, ‘Centre Kamenge’ from Burundi, the Kenyan Voluntary Youth Philanthropists, the Youth Group from Mwanza, Tanzania, and the South African team from “1-PAL” accompanied by GTZ/YDF’s coordinator.

Caravanamani was part of the South African Government’s Legacy Campaign and the Sport and Recreation Department’s Mass Participation Programme that strives to incorporate the culture of sports and recreation into the communities in order to create a legacy beyond the tournaments. Sport in turn will serve as a catalyst for youth development and empowerment. Caravanamani was jointly funded by GTZ’s Youth Development through Football project and South Africa’s Department of Sport & Recreation (SRSA).

Gerald Guskowski, manager of GTZ’s ‘Youth Development through Football’ project cordially thanks all participants that joined the Peace Caravan for their commitment and for a successful mission that reached hundreds, if not thousands of young people in the five countries.
The winner takes it all

Altus Sport Vuma’s Photo exhibition to be a regular event in Mamelodi

Mamelodi, 8 April 2009. The citizens of townships in Pretoria’s vicinity might have wondered when girls and boys from Mamelodi’s Youth Sport Forum roamed their communities in November last year. Armed with disposable cameras 22 Youth Sport Leaders searched for soccer related motifs. Each of them took 24 pictures, 528 in total. Five months later, in April 2009, Joseph Letseka from Ga-Rankuwa and Morris Setati from Klipkruisfontein held first and special prizes in hands as winners of an exhibition that displayed a selection of the best pictures taken.

The activity was part of a soccer related competition organised by Altus Sport Vuma and supported by GTZ’s Youth Development through Football (YDF) project. It aimed at making the Youth Sport Leaders (YSL) acquainted with photo equipment and training them in how to identify suitable motifs. Editors from Pretoria’s weekly magazine ‘Rekord’ supported the competition and included the aspect of newspaper photography with its specific demands.

For the Youth Forum Leaders taking the pictures meant exploiting their area more intensively and seeing it in a different light. At the same time, the competition contributed to further enhancing the relationship among the participants. Last but not least it intensified the awareness of the Confederation Cup 2009™ and FIFA World Cup 2010™.

Q-Photo in Hatfield developed the films and printed the pictures free of charge. The photos were scrutinized by members of the YDF team and reduced to a number of 62. These photos were enlarged and took part in an exhibition at the Stanza Bopape Community Hall in Mamelodi East on 8 April 2009. Some 50 guests from governmental and nongovernmental institutions and private enterprises were thrilled by the young artist’s work. Accompanied with a dance performance from ‘Vukani’, they selected their favourite photo and decorated the ‘artists’ with prizes sponsored by NIKE and others.

Gert Potgieter, head of Altus Sport Vuma and former Olympic contender, immediately took account of the public interest in the event and promised: “What started as a mere idea will soon become a regular event.”
Holidays for education

Mamelodi, 4 May 2009. This year’s Easter holidays meant fun for children of YDF’s School Leagues in Mamelodi and Winterveld. In cooperation with Altus Sport Vuma GTZ’s Youth Development through Football project had implemented a holiday programme that also aimed at interested kids from the schools close neighbourhood.

Youth Leaders from Altus Sport’s Youth Forum offered their ‘Life’s a Ball’ programme and ‘Football Clinics’ activities twice a week at two venues in each township. The youth leaders were supported by DED’s ‘Weltwaerts’ Volunteers that currently work for Altus Sport Vuma. The activities combined sport with non-formal education to overcome discrimination, improve health and combat disease, promote gender equality and fight violence.

The programme provided the children with clear and solid day structures during the holidays that qualified to keep the youths away from the streets and support them with additional education. It reached more than 850 boys and girls. Whoever observed their activities could experience the fusion of African cultures, as kids talked Sepedi, Tsonga, Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele, Tswana, South Sotho, Swati, Venda and other African languages and still understood each other easily.

YDF wants to thank all teachers from Mamelodi and Winterveld that were involved in the programme, Luca from Stanza Bopape Sports Ground and in particular Altus Sport Vuma’s Youth Leaders for their effort and motivation.