



Free tickets to 2010!!

Good news for South African soccer fanatics is that you do not have to stand begging on street corners to afford your 2010 World Cup ticket.

Jérôme Valcke, FIFA's secretary-general, has announced that South Africans will get 120 000 free tickets for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The tickets will form part of what is called the Group 4 category tickets. These tickets will be distributed to South African residents only.

"The cost of the free tickets will be met by our commercial partners," said Valcke.

The 2010 World Cup will see up to three million tickets being sold. A total of between 15 and 20% will be Category 4 tickets.

According to FIFA, the ticket prices will range from 20 US dollars (about R140) for a Category 4 ticket for a group stage match, to 900 US dollars (about R6 265) for a Category 1 ticket for the final. According to FIFA, the prices are the same as for any premium international sporting event, while also taking account of the South African market.

Category 4 tickets will be reserved for South African fans only and will be sold only in South Africa.

"All South Africans contributed to bringing the FIFA World Cup to our country. So it is only befitting that we make tickets available to the ordinary fans at affordable prices," local organising committee chief executive, Danny Jordaan, told FIFA.

Jordaan said that they will take the necessary steps to ensure that these tickets do not end up being sold at extremely high prices on the black market. The first phase of ticket sales is expected to start in February 2009. – Sapa 