

Headline **Rubber aid**
Date **15 Mar 2010**
MediaTitle **The Star**
Section **StarTwo**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **293,375 / 1,026,812**

Language **English**
Page No **T6**
Article Size **208 cm²**
Color **Full Color**
ADValue **7,784**
PRValue **23,351**



Rubber aid

South Africa is stockpiling condoms ahead of the anticipated rise in prostitution during the World Cup.

SARAH BOSELEY

BRITAIN is to give 42 million condoms to South Africa as part of an HIV prevention drive before the World Cup.

The request for British help in stockpiling sufficient condoms for the expected influx of thousands of football supporters in three months' time was made during President Jacob Zuma's recent visit to Britain to meet the Queen.

"Obviously there's a big focus on the World Cup coming up and a huge increase in the number of people coming into South Africa," said the international development minister, Gareth Thomas. "The South Africans have identified the need to get more condoms in place."

The South African government estimates that up to half a million visitors could travel to the country, raising fears of a rise in prostitution and sex trafficking from neighbouring countries and eastern Europe, and creating a potential HIV timebomb.

South Africa's Central Drug Authority has warned that 40,000 prostitutes were expected to arrive for the month-long tournament.

South Africa is embroiled in a struggle to combat the world's biggest HIV caseload and to convince its population of the importance of safe sex.

The South African health minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, has expressed concern that the message was being ignored because people believe HIV can now be easily treated.

Some 450 million male condoms are distributed in South Africa every year but, with 16 million sexually active men and one of the highest HIV infection rates in the world, there are never enough.

An estimated 5.7 million South Africans are living



Party time: Soccer fans in Johannesburg celebrating the 100-day countdown to the 2010 World Cup starting June 11. South Africa's Central Drug Authority warns that 40,000 prostitutes are expected to arrive for the month-long tournament.

with HIV, about one in every five adults. There are about 1,400 new HIV infections and nearly 1,000 AIDS deaths every day.

Television adverts ask viewers to "imagine the possibility of an HIV-free generation" by being cautious. But condom use is still far from a social norm in South Africa. – Guardian News & Media 2010