

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ORLANDO STADIUM
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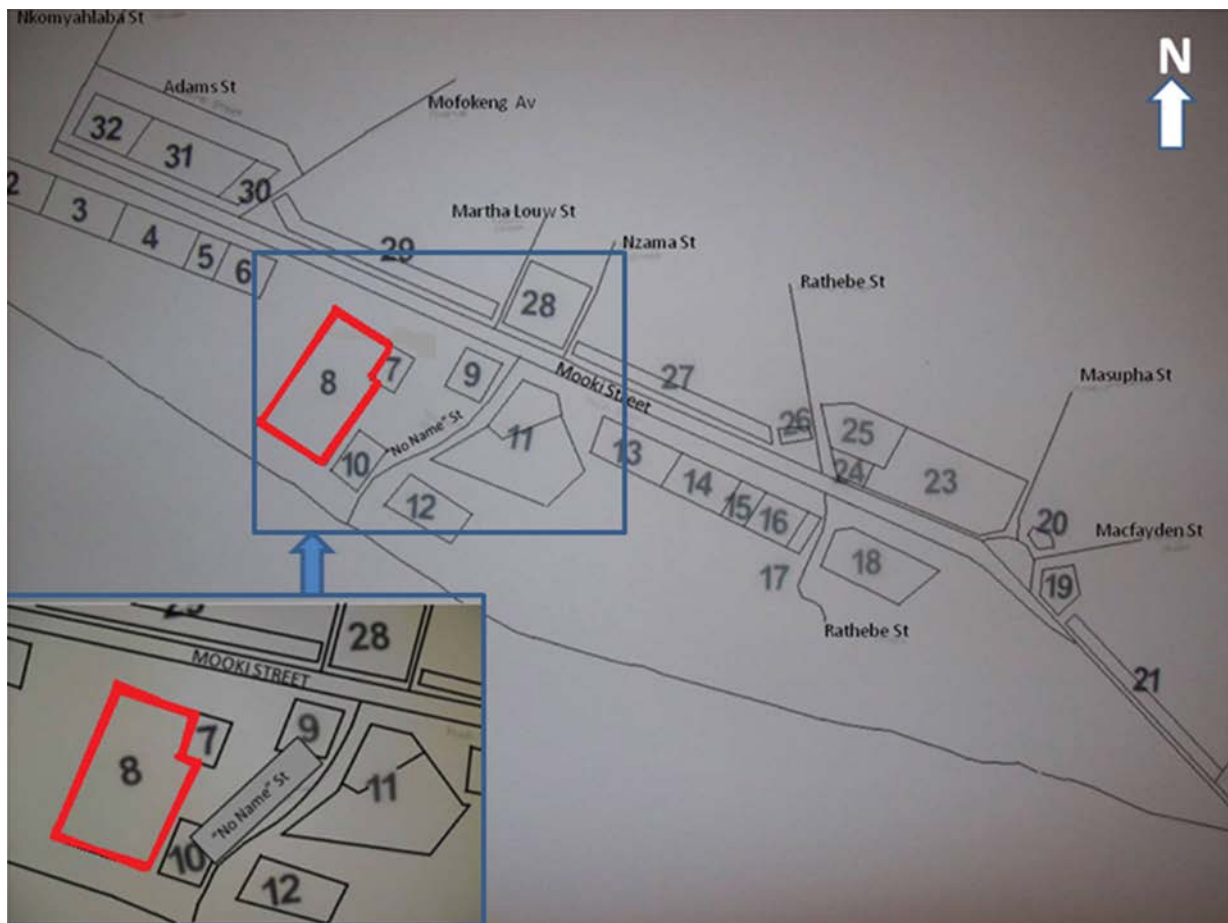
Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
LOCATION OF AREA OF RESEARCH	4
SHORT HISTORY OF SA SOCCER FROM 1896.....	4
'THE GRANDEST STADIUM EVER BUILT IN A NON EUROPEAN AREA'.	7
FUNDING THE STADIUM	8
CONSTRUCTION.....	8
CONTROL OF THE STADIUM	9
OPENING OF THE STADIUM	10
RENOVATIONS.....	11
THE STADIUM AS A FOCAL POINT.....	14
DECLINE AND REBIRTH.....	15
ORLANDO STADIUM: PERSONAL SOCCER ASSOCIATIONS.....	17
APPENDIX: THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH	20
REFERENCES.....	22

INTRODUCTION

This report gives a summary of the history of South African soccer until 2004. It also provides a brief overview of the relationship of South African soccer bodies with the rest of the world during the apartheid era. However the focus of this report is the **history of Orlando Stadium**, its construction, changing structure and the interplay of politics in the control of the Stadium. The Stadium has been a focal point not only of soccer and other meetings but also of political gatherings. This report is just a beginning...

Locality Map of Orlando Stadium (Area 8). (Adapted from Correia et al 2007, Orlando East Horse Cart Trail.)



Map Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Zithalele Primary School | 12. Mighty's hardware. | 23. Public Open space. |
| 2. Tataisong Primary School | 13. Church of the Nazarene. | 24. Library (stand 6574) |
| 3. Leratong Primary School | 14. Swiss Mission in South Africa EPC | 25. YMCA (stand 6575) |
| 4. Methodist Church of South Africa | 15. Shopping Centre. | 26. Residential Area (stand numbers: 43-45) |
| 5. Stand 6547 (not on web) | 16. Magistrate Court | 27. Residential Area (stand Numbers: 24-42) |
| 6. "Pink" Church (no name) | 17. Post Office | 28. community centre (stand 448) |
| 7. Salvation Army Church | 18. Orlando Police Station | 29. Residential Area (stand numbers 1- 23) |

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|---|
| 8. Orlando Stadium | 19.UCCSA
union of South Africa (1948) | Congregational | 30. Baptist church
(rehabilitation centre) |
| 9. African Gospel Church
(stand 6561) | 20. Ethiopian church of South
Africa. | | 31. Orlando Secondary |

LOCATION OF AREA OF RESEARCH

Orlando stadium is situated in Orlando East, Soweto. Soweto evolved from 1904 when Black people were relocated south of Johannesburg after the outbreak of bubonic plague in Newtown in 1904. The emergency camp provided was at Klipspruit, 16 kilometres from town. The 1923 the Natives Urban Areas Act laid a specific duty on every municipality to provide housing in a location, villages or hostels for all the Black residents in its area. The Johannesburg Municipality responded to this call by building houses in the Western Native Township for Black people. ¹By 1939 the Black population had grown 244 000 so the municipality decided to set aside a large tract of land on the South West of Klipspruit location for the future increases in the 'native population'. Although it was far from town the area had many advantages: it a major railway line running through it, waterborne sewerage could be discharged into a disposal works nearby, there was a new power station being constructed. Therefore the Johannesburg municipality systematically acquired large tracts of land here.

An architectural competition was held to establish the design for the first township. This included provision for administration offices, a public hall, cottage hospital, with dispensary and clinic, police station, fire station, post offices, school and church sites, market and shopping sites. In 1932 Orlando East was laid out along the lines of the prize winning township layout of the architect Herman Kallenbach. Mooki Street was intended to be the central boulevard of the new 'Model Native Township', the western half of which was never built. This design laid the ground work for future apartheid - style townships. ² The township was named Orlando after the Councillor Edwin Orlando Leake who at the time took interest at the establishment of the township. Construction was slow in the depression years but by 1939, 5800 houses had been built.³

SHORT HISTORY OF SA SOCCER FROM 1896

Soccer was a hugely popular sport at the time the Orlando Stadium was built but it took several decades for it develop to that stage. As soon as the gold rush started in 1886 on the Witwatersrand, people played amateur but competitive soccer. Early on in 1896, Indian football clubs joined to form the Transvaal Indian Football Association. Before long there were football

¹ Nigel Mandy (1984) *A City Divided* , 174

² Brink, E .et al (2000) Soweto Heritage Survey Final Report for NMC

³ *A City Divided* , 176

associations and football clubs mushrooming everywhere. Of note were the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association (JBFA) in 1929, South African Football Association (SAFA) in 1932, the South African Coloured Football Association (SACFA) in 1933 and the Transvaal Inter Race Soccer Board in 1935, which was a board made up of Indian, Coloured and Blacks.⁴ The soccer names that are today prominent were also formed early on Orlando Pirates in 1937 and Moroka Swallows in 1947.⁵

According to Davie (2007), SAFA, SACFA and the South African Indian Association joined in 1951 to form the anti-apartheid South African Soccer Federation (SASF). The world governing body for soccer however did not recognise this bold step that had been taken by the Non-White association, for, in 1952, SAFA an all White association was admitted into the Federation of International Football Associations' (FIFA) fold.⁶ Four years later in 1956 SAFA which had changed its name to Football Association of Southern Africa (FASA). It was pressured by FIFA to delete the racist exclusionary clause from its constitution. Things in South Africa were not as progressive, for in that same year as the Minister of Interior T.E. Dinges passed the first apartheid sport policy.⁷ Notwithstanding the apartheid laws that had been passed FIFA officially recognised FASA as the sole governing body in South Africa in 1958. The apartheid policies even went further when in 1959 the National Football League (NFL) the country's first White only professional league was formed.⁸ In the same year Orlando Stadium opened.

Although the racist exclusionary clause was deleted from FASA's constitution in 1956, it was only in 1958 that the South African Bantu Football Association (SABFA) decided to affiliate with FASA.

It did not take long before FIFA saw that there was little change in South Africa's racial policies with regards to soccer. The Rand Stadium in Johannesburg was fully operational in the early 1960s but was the headquarters for the National Football League. Between 1964 the NFL was granted the permission to use the trophy room and alterations were also made on the clubrooms, first aid rooms and change rooms to accommodate the NFL. Black football teams and spectators were not allowed use of the stadium and were at that time supposed to use the Orlando Stadium which had been completed and officially opened in 1959. The racial segregation was so apparent that it caused the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to expel and FIFA to suspend FASA from their bodies in 1960 and 1961 respectively.⁹

⁴ Lucille Davie, 'Soccer Goes Back 120 years in Joburg', www.joburg.org.za, 23 January 2007

⁵ Lucille Davie, 'Soccer Goes Back 120 years in Joburg'

⁶ Ibid

⁷ <http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/chronology/special-chrono/society/sa-soccer.htm>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ <http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/chronology/special-chrono/society/sa-soccer.htm>

In the midst of all this the government tried to make cosmetic apartheid based changes to make it seem as though there was concern about sport in Black communities. An example of this was building of the Orlando Stadium. It was the first stadium to be built in Soweto and it was largely thought that it was built to appease Black people as well as control the wildly popular sport. In the 1950s Johannesburg had over 320 Black soccer teams. The main soccer associations, JBFA and JAFA, were locked in an ongoing battle with the Non-European Affairs Department in the control of resources.¹⁰ The NEAD decided that they had to control the hugely popular sport. One way of doing it was to make sure that the premium stadium was to be controlled by an association affiliated with a White football association. Supporting African soccer also provided the government with the opportunity to prove to the rest of the world that it was concerned with the welfare of 'non Europeans' in urban areas and was doing as much as possible to develop talent and support sport in Black communities.

A decade before the building of the stadium, a Black Johannesburg team had been chosen to represent the country in competitions in Katanga, Belgian Congo. The competitions presented the Johannesburg municipality with an opportunity to centralise control of the African soccer and thereby restrict Black sporting organisations role as potential social bases for political action.¹¹ However in the backdrop of such effort by the government it was clear that the effort was purely cosmetic. The amount of money spent in building the Orlando Stadium for instance was almost half the amount that was used in building the Rand Stadium and almost an eighth of what the city later paid for the Rand Stadium in July 1963, even though it was obvious that soccer was more popular among the Black population than the White population.¹²

Following the disapproval and pressure from the rest of the world and soccer governing bodies more superficial changes were made. In 1961 FASA included some Black players in its fold. The seesaw relationship between FASA and FIFA that had begun a decade earlier continued with FIFA lifting FASA's suspension from the football body in 1961 reinstating it 1963, suspending it again in 1964 until it was completely expelled in 1976. Meanwhile Black football players were making strides in development of soccer with players like Stephen Makone and Darius Dhlomo, who secured contracts with European clubs in the late 1950s. It was only two decades later, in the mid 1970s, that the National Party bowed down to pressure and began to allow multinational and multiracial sporting activities.

In 1974 there seemed to be a change of policy when the Minister of Sport and Recreation Dr P.G. Koornhof announced that there was going to be soccer tournament that in, which "different South African Nations could

¹⁰ P Alegi, 'Katanga vs Johannesburg: a history of the first sub-Saharan African football championship', *Kleio* XXX.

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² Draft historical Survey of Rand Stadium 1949 –1987and Statement of Significance, Sue Krige.

participate on a multinational basis.”¹³ The tournament was held at the Rand Stadium. Black people were crammed behind a six-foot high barbed wire fence and tempers flew high after the White team won. The tournament did nothing to improve the cooperation between the Black and the White teams it also did not improve the confidence of any of the White teams and associations to an extent that they could play at a stadium in the Black township. In fact according to Krige, the tournament was, “... spectator apartheid enforced in a gross and humiliating manner which led to great racial tension and near riots.”¹⁴ Soccer for a long time remained separated like everything else. There were separate associations, separate teams and stadiums and separate budgets.

During the 1970s soccer games also became accessible to more people as important games at Hector Norris Park, Rand Stadium and Ellis Park began to be broadcast on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) television. However it was only in 1981 that the SABC-TV was able to broadcast live matches.¹⁵ Soccer had reached an era where it was taken seriously even in the corporate world. In 1983 commercial sponsorships in soccer reached a whopping R1 million. Anti-apartheid talks in soccer began in 1985, which culminated with the formation of a non-racial and South African Football Association SAFA in 1992, which was founded on non-racial democratic principles.¹⁶ A high note for South African soccer was when they hosted the 1996 Africa Cup Nations and won the tournament (after beating Tunisia 2-0 at the finals) and when in 2004 they were awarded the right to host the World Cup Soccer.

‘THE GRANDEST STADIUM EVER BUILT IN A NON EUROPEAN AREA’.

The farm RE/1/318/IQ on which the stadium is situated was originally owned by Consolidated Main Reefs and Estates Limited who sold the farm to the City Council of Johannesburg on 8 December 1930 for £25 000. Later it was then divided into portions that were used for various functions. Orlando Stadium became the first stadium to be built in Soweto in the apartheid area. The stadium was supposed to be constructed on what was a bare piece of land used as a rubbish dump by the communities around and as a makeshift sports ground by the youngsters. It was known as Young’s Field after Mr Young who was a community developer.¹⁷ The stadium was to be located in a prime location as it was going to be along the popular main street, Mooki Street, that runs parallel to the railway line.

Residents of Orlando played a huge part in the building of the stadium. With a population of 97 000 people in 1950 the township had been plagued by a

¹³ Draft historical Survey of Rand Stadium 1949 –1987 and Statement of Significance, Sue Krige.

¹⁴ Draft Historical Survey of Rand Stadium 1949-1987 and Statement of significance, Sue Krige.

¹⁵ <http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/chronology/special-chrono/society/sa-soccer.htm>

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Deed of Transfer 11926/1930. See also Brink, E. et al (2000) Soweto Heritage Survey Final Report for NMC.

mounting rate of crime that was threatening the safety of residents. Juvenile delinquency was especially a cause for concern as there were very few sports and recreation centres for the youth in the area. In 1950 the residents of Orlando drew up a memorandum calling for the construction of a stadium that was going to help in keeping children out of the streets during school holidays and weekends. That same year, Mr Theo Nkosi, the chairman of the Orlando Sports Board of Control had meetings with various charity organisations to enlist their help in the building of the stadium.¹⁸ For almost half a decade nothing happened but the cry for a big sporting facility grew louder and louder until it could not be ignored.

During this time Orlando Pirates adopted the nearby Donaldson Orlando Community Centre (DOCC) in Mooki Street as the most convenient venue as a club headquarters. Pirates moved here when the club became too large to be administered from the house of one of their founders and first president, Mr Bethuel Mokgosinyane.

FUNDING THE STADIUM

On the 25th of May 1956 the City Council of Johannesburg voted £15 000 towards the construction of Orlando Stadium as part of the 1956 festival celebrations. Various firms and organisations also signified their desire to contribute towards the construction of the stadium by contributing substantial amounts.¹⁹ On July 3 1956, a group of businessmen in Johannesburg met and re-pledged themselves to raising £18 000 towards the building of a stadium in Orlando (the initial pledge had been made in the November of 1953). After all the contributions had rolled in the contributors' had raised £22 500. The biggest donor was OK Bazaars, which donated as much money as the City Council of Johannesburg did.²⁰ On 3 October 1956, at meeting at the City Engineers Department it was decided that the tender to build the stadium be awarded to Arnhold and Company (SA) Ltd, who were the lowest bidders, for the earthworks of the stadium.²¹ Work on the stadium commenced soon afterwards.

CONSTRUCTION

By mid year 1959 the stadium was almost complete and it featured turfed sports fields, a concrete cycling track, an athletic track, dressing rooms, and toilet rooms. There was a triple grand stand that was to accommodate 900 people in total.²² At the time the stadium was the 'grandest stadium ever built in a Non European area'.

¹⁸ *The Bantu World* Johannesburg May 16 1959

¹⁹ Minutes of the Johannesburg City Council 26 June 1956

²⁰ *The Star* Johannesburg 3 July 1956

²¹ Minutes of the City Council 23 October 1956

²² *The Bantu World* March 7 1959



Picture of Orlando Stadium on March 7 1959. (from Ali Ncana 1962)

CONTROL OF THE STADIUM

The size and the location of the stadium made it a very attractive location for big soccer matches; it was very accessible to most people in Soweto as it is located near the railway line. Almost all the soccer associations at the time wanted control of the stadium. However in March 1959, true to the politics of that time, just before the opening of the stadium the Manager for the Non European Affairs Department (NEAD), Mr W Carr announced the control of the stadium was going to be given to the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association (JBFA). This was a blow to other association such as the Johannesburg African Football Association (JAFA), the Orlando African Football Association (OAFA) and the Moroka – Jababvu Football Association (MJFA); who felt that the stadium should not be in the hands of one association. They felt that the Council had made a decision without proper consultations and that all the associations should have been allocated a share in the control of the stadium and use it on a rotational basis. Mr Carr said the decision had been reached because the JBFA had allowed other smaller soccer associations to be affiliated to them. JBFA therefore was the

largest and most representative. Other associations disagreed stating the fact that they were financially more stable than the JBFA. A meeting that had been called to discuss the issue disintegrated and strong words were exchanged between the delegates and Mr Carr for the decision that he had made.²³



Reverend Sigamoney, 1959

It is probable that the decision to hand over the control of the stadium to JBFA was made because the association had made the decision a few months earlier to affiliate itself to the Southern Transvaal Football Association (STFA) which was a White football association. Many felt that affiliation left the JBFA in a subservient position, as the STFA would make all the critical decisions. This could stifle the voice of African footballers and that the JBFA would look like it supported the separation of sporting activities along racial grounds. The allocation of the stadium therefore looked like a reward for towing the line on the terms of White sportsman.

According to Rev Sigamoney, a prominent advocate for equality in sports at that time and president of the Southern Transvaal Inter Race Soccer Board, the move by JBFA had betrayed the everything that the association had done in the past to eradicate inequality in sports.²⁴ Mr Carr however argued that the other associations had never made an effort to help footballers in the townships and incorporate sub-associations such as the JBFA had, therefore they did not deserve to have any control over the stadium.²⁵

OPENING OF THE STADIUM

There was tension from the time when it was announced that the JBFA was going to control the stadium to the time the stadium was opened. A headline in the *Bantu World* on April 25 1959 shows that the issue was indeed a heated one at the time. The article stated that tsotsis (gangsters) were threatening to break up the opening of the stadium that was scheduled for May 2 1959. The tsotsis wanted to demonstrate during the opening of the stadium to show the disapproval of the Minister's decision to give control of the stadium to the JBFA. Strong action was promised by Mr Carr if there was going to be any disruption whatsoever.²⁶ Despite the threats the Hon Minister of Bantu Administration and Development MR M.D.C. de Wet Nel opened the stadium

²³ *The Bantu World* Johannesburg March 28 1959

²⁴ *The Bantu World* Johannesburg March 14 1959

²⁵ *The Bantu World* Johannesburg April 4 1959

²⁶ *The Bantu World* Johannesburg April 25 1959

on The 2nd of May 1959.²⁷ The Minister spoke in English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sesotho. He declared that within the past few years 'European men, in and out of sports, had adopted a policy of friendly cooperation with Bantu sports organizations. They are doing everything they can to help Bantu sports,' he said. Other stadiums had been built and opened in other sections of the Transvaal and many more would be provided. The stadium would help carry out the plan for organised physical education in the schools, he said.

A crowd of over 7500 African men and women and 400 Europeans joined in the celebrations. There were no disruptions during or after the ceremony though there was heavy police presence. JBFA organised a friendly match to between Litsili a team of the first division and Maremathlou Division of the JBFA to mark the opening of the stadium. There was also a music that was provided by the Johannesburg brass band and a choir by the Orlando High School Choir. Tribal dancing by a traditional Zulu group ended the festivities of the day.²⁸

RENOVATIONS

After the stadium was opened it became the focal point of soccer in Soweto the stands were full almost all the weekends as sports fans came to see their favourite soccer players play every weekend. It soon became clear that the capacity of the stadium was inadequate. There was a serious riot that occurred during a professional football match on the 1st of August 1970, which was a cause for concern for the residents who went to see the soccer matches as well as the City Council. It was decided by the Council that the stadium needed a security fence around the soccer field to protect the players from the rowdy crowds. It was recommended that R3 720 be made available for the erection of an eight-foot security fence.²⁹ Further improvements were also made to the stadium as the numbers of spectators grew. In 1972, R97 000 was made available for the renovation and improvements to the stadium. The money mainly went to the high-rise stands around the ground, dressing room and upgrading of facilities to international standards.³⁰

Over the years small improvements were made here and there until there was a major facelift for the stadium when it was to be one of the venues for the 7th All Africa Games in 1999. The renovations, which were worth over R7 million, would see the stadium catering for almost 500 cars, lounge, conference room, and media centre and change rooms for the players. Toilets and ablution facilities were also improved to meet international standards. A concrete pavilion with plastic seats to cater for an additional 700 people was also added. Part of the renovations also included re-roofing

²⁷ Ordinary Meeting of the City Council 28 July 1959

²⁸ <http://www.knet.co.za/orlandostadium>

²⁹ Ordinary Meeting of the City Council 25 August 1970

³⁰ *The Rand Daily Mail* January 15 1972

and repainting the stadium.³¹ There was a lot of concern during the preparations that the stadium would not be finished in time of the opening of the games but most critics were proved wrong and the stadium was finished in time.

On May 2005 soccer legends that once played in the football stadium converged to celebrate the R200 million re-launch of the stadium. The stadium was earmarked for extensive renovations in time for the 2010 World Cup. The demolition of the stadium began that same day and construction was scheduled to start in July of 2006. According to the City of Johannesburg officials the project was conceptualised to ensure that there would be lasting legacy for the benefit of the residents of the city of Johannesburg after the 2010 World Cup.³² The project is also supposed to restore the dignity of the people of Soweto who had lost all faith in the stadium regaining its former glory.

Chronology of Construction

Date	Phase of Construction or Alteration of Stadium	Notes
October 1956	Beginning of construction of the stadium, earthworks.	Tender for earthworks awarded to Arnhold and Company S.A. Ltd for £9,381.12.0. Contract included provision of sports field, cycling track and embankments for spectators.
July 1959	Erection of plaque.	A plaque with the names of the donors was placed at the entrance of the grandstand at the stadium.
March 1965	Alterations	R7 615 used in the completion of the grandstands.
1965	Broadcasting Box	Broadcasting Box erected at Orlando stadium.
1966/ 1967	Grandstands	12 metal turnstiles erected at the stadium.
April 1968	Erection of tubular steel seating at the Orlando stadium.	Plant Construction was granted the tender for the construction of tubular steel seating at the stadium for R20 868.70.

³¹ *Sowetan* 5 August 1999

³² *Sowetan* 5 May 2006

January 1970	Alteration of cycle track.	Concrete cycle track widened by ten feet and the safety fence was also moved at a cost of R10 000.
August 1970	Erection of fence.	An eight-foot fence was erected for the protection of players after a serious riot broke out at a match on the 1 st of August 1970.
March 1972	Extensions and improvements.	Repairs and maintenance of the facilities, high rise seating, paving, dressing room facilities were improved to those of international standards. Turnstiles added. The estimated cost by the council was R97 000.
January 1973	Improvements	Extension of the stadium so that it could cater for at least 100 000 people. R65 000 was made available for the extensions.
August 1999	Renovations	Renovations estimated at R7 million were made to conform to international standards. Media room, media centre, change rooms toilets were all upgraded. Renovations were being made in time for the All Africa Games.
July 2006	New Orlando Stadium construction begins.	Demolition of the stadium began and construction of a new stadium that seats 40 000 people, with plush private suites, a museum, restaurants and shops begun. R200 million has been made available for the development. Stadium will be used as a training facility during the 2010 World Cup

THE STADIUM AS A FOCAL POINT

At the time it was built the Stadium was the biggest stadium in Soweto and was also used as a venue for other sporting activities. School events and inter-school sporting activities were held for a long time at Orlando. At the height of its popularity between the early 70s and the mid 1980s the place teemed with hawkers and nearby shebeens in Mooki Street like Number 11 (now closed) used to be patronised by fans from as far as Pretoria and East Rand.³³ Owners of the shebeens talk of booming business during that time, as spectators would come to the shebeens before the game began and to celebrate if their team won after the game or to drown their sorrows if their team lost. Mooki Street was a hub of activity, a place where Black people could meet in large numbers without fear of reprisal.

Orlando Stadium was not only a place of entertainment but it was also a place used for political meetings both before and after 1995. Because the stadium offered the biggest space in terms of large gatherings the Stadium hosted the 80th birthday celebrations for Johannesburg on the 20th of September 1966. The gala day included firework displays, brass bands, gumboot dancing, vaulting displays, eurhythmic exercises and a soccer match.³⁴

In the 1976 Soweto Uprising, the students had arranged to march to Orlando Stadium where they were going to convene and hold a mass meeting. According to one of the students present during the Uprising they were going to go to Orlando Stadium where they would publicly endorse a memorandum that was going to be delivered to the relevant government authorities by their leaders.³⁵ However because of the heavy police presence in the whole of Orlando and because the Stadium had been condoned off by the police the students were unable to have their meeting there. Some tried however to get to the stadium by all means but the majority were unable to.

After years of underground activity in exile the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) was re-launched at Orlando Stadium on the 27th of October 1990. The South African Youth Congress ((SAYCO) and the African National Congress Youth Section which had operated in exile, merged to launch the ANCYL. The Provisional National Youth Congress (PNYC) and the National Youth Congress (PNYS) were established to spearhead the rebuilding of the youth league nationwide. They were tasked with receiving reports from all over the country and addressing developments related to the rebuilding of the ANCYL. The main tasks of the youth league were to be in touch with all sectors and maintain active participation in the struggle for

³³ *Sowetan* 27 August 1997

³⁴ J.R. Shorten, *The Johannesburg Saga*, p412-413

³⁵ E Brink et al (2007) *Soweto 16 June 1976* (Interview Dan Moyane)

democracy. The youth congress was supposed to establish and maintain contacts with various youth and student organisations.³⁶

Orlando Stadium was again the focal point when after the death of ANC stalwart Walter Sisulu in May 2003, the funeral service was held there. Thousands of people were expected to attend the service, which was open to the public. Present at the service in Orlando was the President Thabo Mbeki and the former President Nelson Mandela. Several foreign dignitaries and prominent government officials also graced the occasion.

DECLINE AND REBIRTH

Over the years, as the popularity of other stadiums has risen, Orlando Stadium has been less favoured because of the deteriorating standards and the lack of funds to rebuild it to its former glory. When South Africa won the bid to host the 2010 soccer world cup Orlando stadium became one of the stadiums that was chosen to be a training ground for one of the teams. For that to happen it had to fit into FIFA exacting standards, which includes the reorientation of the stadium so that the axis is closer to the north-south to prevent the sun from dazzling the players. The capacity of the stadium would also be increased from 24 000 to 40 000, there would be provision for wheelchair bound spectators.³⁷ Over R200 million has been made available for the rebuilding of the stadium and construction of the stadium is currently underway. For all this to happen the stadium had to be flattened but it will no doubt have a brighter future, as the world cup will make it the focus not only of Soweto residents but also of the rest of the world.

Summary of events associated with Orlando Stadium

Date.	Events associated with stadium	Notes
December 1930.	Selling of Klipspruit portion 318	The City of Johannesburg bought the farm Klipspruit 318 from Consolidated Main Reefs Estates Limited for 25 000 pounds. Orlando stadium would be later located on RE portion 1 of the farm.
1950	Memorandum for the construction of a stadium.	Residents of Orlando draw up a memorandum for the construction of stadium in order to reduce juvenile delinquency.

³⁶ <http://www.saha.org.za/collections>.

³⁷ *Sowetan* 20 August 2006

July 1953	Pledges made by businessmen for the construction of a stadium.	A group of businessmen gathered and pledged themselves to the building of a 'Non - European' stadium.
May 1956	Approval for the construction of Orlando Stadium.	The council votes towards the construction of a Non- European stadium in Orlando council contributes £15 000 towards its construction.
July 1956	Contributors raise money.	Various firms and individuals re pledged themselves to the building of the stadium and raised £22 500.
October 1956	Building of Orlando stadium commences.	The construction of the first stadium in Soweto begins.
March 1959	JBFA awarded control of the stadium.	The Johannesburg Bantu Football Association was awarded control of the stadium by the Non - European Affairs manager Mr. Carr.
April 1959.	Threats of a riot.	Gangs thought to be affiliated to a rival soccer association threaten to disrupt the opening of the stadium.
April 1959.	JBFA affiliates.	Sub associations affiliate themselves to JBFA so as to make use of the stadium. JBFA make arrangements for future fixtures. Orlando stadium becomes home to the JBFA.
2 May 1959.	Opening of the stadium.	The Minister of Bantu Administration and Development Mr. M de Wet Nel opens Orlando stadium.
1966	Fixtures for Kaizer Motaung Invitational XI at the stadium.	A brand new club Kaizer Motaung Invitational XI which was later to become Kaizer Chiefs manage to get permission to play at Orlando Stadium by the JBFA.

September 1966	Johannesburg 80 th celebrations.	Celebrations to commemorate Johannesburg 80 th birthday were held at Orlando stadium in September of 1966.
June 1976	1976 Soweto Uprising.	The stadium was the planned destination for the students but the police condoned it off.
October 1990	Relaunch of ANCYL	The African National Congress Youth League was re-launched at the stadium after many years in exile.
August 1997	Orlando as 'Birds' Nest'	Moroka Swallows (the 'Birds') abandon all other venues and make Orlando Stadium their home ground.
August 1999	Orlando Stadium hosts the All Africa games.	Orlando Stadium was renovated to international standards so that it could host the All Africa Games.
November 2002.	Anniversary for Orlando Pirates and Orlando East.	Celebrations to mark the 70 th anniversary of Orlando East and the 65 th anniversary of the formation of Orlando Pirates.
May 2003	Walter Sisulu funeral.	Walter Sisulu's funeral service was attended by thousands was held at the Orlando Stadium.
2006	Stadium earmarked for the 2010 world cup	Stadium is earmarked as the training ground for one of the teams for the 2010 world cup rebuilding of the stadium begins.

ORLANDO STADIUM: PERSONAL SOCCER ASSOCIATIONS

For many years Orlando Stadium was the focal point of soccer before the availability of Ellis Park and later FNB Stadium in 1989. Orlando was the venue for all-important football and other sporting events. Orlando Pirates by virtue of the geographical location and prestige 'owned' the stadium and the grounds.³⁸ Great names in South African football played there amid cheers from the crowds; stars such as Kaizer Motaung, Jomo Sono, Cedric Xulu,

³⁸ <http://www.mg.co.za> 15 December 2005

Lucas Moripe, Tanti Julius, Percy Moloi and many others. Two of the stars that were later to become Bafana Bafana coaches Jomo Sono and Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba were both born less than a kilometre from the stadium and became legends in the field of soccer both launched their careers at Orlando stadium.

In 1997 the Stadium became home to Moroka Swallows and many people saw it as the return of big league soccer to the people in the townships.

Soccer Stars associated with Orlando Stadium

Name	Reasons for selection
Mr Bethuel Mokgosinyane	Mokgosinyane's home was the base for running of Orlando Pirates before building of Donaldson Centre.
Steve 'Kalamazoo' Mokone	He was the first Black South African soccer player to play overseas soccer professionally. When he went to England in 1955. He was among the few players in Europe who was able to command a salary of £10 000 per year in the 1950s. ³⁹
Patrick "Ace" Ntsoelengoe	An outstanding player who was based in the United States but came at the very end of each season to wow crowds and show his soccer skills and play for Kaiser Chiefs. ⁴⁰
Kaizer Motaung	Founder of the Kaiser Chiefs Football Club in 1971 which is one of the biggest football clubs today and also the one of the founder members of the modern day South African Premier soccer league.
Jomo Sono	Born a kilometre from the stadium he was a soccer star and later founder and coach of Jomo Cosmos, which was once a historically White club in Pretoria but was renamed after it was bought in 1983. Jomo at one time was the as the coach for Bafana Bafana.
Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba.	Was promoted from a small football club called Preston Brothers, which was in the fifth division to the first division in the early 1960s. He went onto be a star at Orlando Pirates and inspired many

³⁹ <http://www.knet.co.za/orlandostadium/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.knet.co.za/orlandostadium/>

	to become football stars. He later became coach of the National Under 23 soccer team..
Ewert Nene.	Played initially for Orlando pirates he was a stalwart player and he was later expelled for indiscipline in 1969 and then he later joined and became instrumental in the formation of Kaizer Invitational XI which was later to become Kaizer Chiefs.
Hans Moses	Played for Orlando Pirates and was a great source of pride among supporters who saw the unity that could be achieved in sport. Stopped playing for Pirates in 1969 when the apartheid policies where enforced in sport in 1969. And the multiracial team was disbanded. Orlando Pirates honoured him posthumously in 2002 for his contribution in the development of the club.

APPENDIX: THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH

The Salvation Army Church shares the same stand number as the Orlando Stadium as shown below. Though there is scanty evidence about its' origins it is probable that church and its grounds were part of the land that was sold to the City Council of Johannesburg by Consolidated Main Reefs Mines and Estate Limited. The land was later leased to the Church as the council at that time did not sell land to churches but rather leased it. An example of this is the Council Lease is the approval of the application that was made by the Bantu Baptist Church in Orlando Township in 1933 where the rental amount was to be £1 a month.⁴¹



Aerial picture of the church in relation to the stadium. (Adapted from City of Johannesburg Website)

A search of the City Council Minutes did not reveal when the lease for the Salvation Army Church was applied or approved but a plaque on the church premises stated that the church was opened by W.J. Barnard Turner on the 7th of July 1934. W. J. Barnard Turner was the Territorial Commissioner of the Salvation Army in South Africa from 1931 to 1934. Three days after opening the stadium the Commissioner bid farewell to his congregation in Selbourne Hall as he and his wife were retiring to California upon medical advice.⁴² In

⁴¹ Ordinary Minutes of the City Council 28 March 1933

⁴² The Star Johannesburg Transvaal 7 July 1934

the farewell speeches that were given the Commissioner was commended for his love for the people and his good financial leadership that had left the church in a better financial status than when he assumed leadership.⁴³

A file in the National Archive reveals that there was application for a lease made to the City Council in 1959 by the Salvation Army church. The Salvation Army church was applying that the stand 6461 be used as both a church site and a school site. Though this was contrary to the policy of the NEAD to allocate school sites in urban residential areas the lease was later granted in September of 1960.⁴⁴ It can be safely assumed that the church site in question is the Salvation Army Church that is located in the grounds of the Orlando Stadium. It is highly unlikely that there could have been two Salvation Army church sites in Mooki Street. The plan from the City Engineers Office shows the location of site 6461 in relation to Mooki Street, and the geographical location makes it most plausible to assume that site 6461 is indeed the church in question. It is therefore safe to assume that the church, which had been built in 1934, had been granted a lease for church purposes well before 1959. Therefore the application made in 1959 was only to add a schooling to the existing church facilities.

⁴³ The Star Johannesburg Transvaal 7 July 1934

⁴⁴ File: SAB NTS Vol. 5625 Ref51/3131(7). Part one: Church and School Sites in Locations in Johannesburg: Salvation Army, National Archives, Pretoria.

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