

Sacrificing poor for big events

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AS A nation we are proud of our new democracy and the strength of our economy.

Around the world people are making South Africa one of their main tourist destinations, and despite the violent crime, the number of visitors increased from 3.6 million to 7.3 million from 1994 to 2005.

The 2010 world soccer cup will overshadow the cricket world cup of 2003 and the multibillion rand arms deal.

Corporate business must be commended- the hospitality, banking, aviation industries, to name a few; they will ensure that through their religious spirit of globalisation, big business monopoly will triumph.

The poor tenants, the unemployed, the people in shacks, pavement people and the homeless - will they really see the spin offs?

SA may prove a success story which no other country has thus far accomplished through magnificent world events hosted

at the expense of the poor. As we edge closer to 2010, new and sorely needed infrastructure will emerge, most likely not sustainable beyond a few years; our street children and beggars may disappear.

Shack settlements, it seems, will be replaced with formal housing, but, what will become of pensioners?

Will the rental market further commodify the lives of tenants, reducing them as mere investment chips like the exploited labour of employees?

Soccer is the most loved and followed world sport that will make South Africa shine and tingle in the wallets of the global players on the stage of poverty. Perhaps, our corporate industry will be different and the black economic empowerment sector will transform the capitalist landscape. Perhaps!

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