



SELF-MOTIVATED: Nothemba Bambiso, right, David Beckham and Fifa president Sepp Blatter. PICTURE: REUTERS

City teen part of England 2018 bid

THANDANANI MHLANGA

A TEENAGER from a Cape Town children's home had the once-in-a-lifetime experience yesterday of handing over the England 2018 Bid Book to Fifa president Sepp Blatter.

The Bid Book represents England 2018's formal proposal to Fifa and sets out the country's vision for the tournament.

Nothemba Bambiso, 17, joined soccer superstar David Beckham and England's elite delegation that met Blatter at Fifa's Zurich headquarters.

Beckham led the England 2018 party, which included two other young guests from Manchester and London.

All three youngsters feature in the Bid Book as examples of the positive impact football can have on individuals and communities.

Each has benefited from legacy schemes supported by English football organisations.

Bambiso works with the Football Association's charity partner Coaching for Hope, which Beckham visited in Khayelitsha during the World Cup draw last year.

Coaching for Hope works closely with local coaches in southern Africa to provide training and to help with HIV and substance abuse programmes.

Coaching for Hope's Southern Africa programme manager, Norman Brook, said Bambiso was a confident, self-motivated youngster with a positive attitude towards life.

"She has been involved in a young leadership programme with Amandla Khalutcha (as well as with) the Marsh Memorial soccer team."

Cup fever hits commuters

'Flash mob' gets passengers dancing at Cape Town station

CAITLIN ROSS

FOOTBALL fever got its dance on as about 100 flash mobbers appeared at Cape Town Central Station yesterday afternoon to the delighted confusion of commuters on their way home for the weekend.

On a signal of booming South African music, the dancers of all ages and races and kitted out in Bafana tops and red socks, converged, skipping and whistling and broke into a disk dance routine.

Within seconds, commuters from all ends of the station had formed a huge circle around the mystery performers, many pulling out their phones to capture the bizarre event on camera, and some hesitantly bopping around, deciding whether to join in.

After five minutes of absurdity, as is standard practice for flash mobs, the dancers disappeared as suddenly as they'd arrived.

The crowd was left standing baffled and highly amused.

"Where did they go? When are they coming back? They must come back and do that dance. Yo, that was so little, I wanted to join in and they just disappeared," lamented Mfundo Qauka, who had been about to board a train home when the mob struck.

But the flash mobber rule of disappearing into thin air after the event was bent in true South African style as calls for their return brought on an encore from the red-socked troupe.

The music started up once again and this time some of the spectators were not going to be caught with their dancing shoes off. People were pulled in and - with varying levels of aptitude - followed the steps of the dancers.

Metrorail security guard Powers Ntsebi said the dancers took her completely by surprise.



RHYTHM: A 'flash mob' entertains commuters at Cape Town station.

PICTURE: STEVE KRETMANN/WCN

"I'm so surprised. It's wonderful," she said as she studied the dance moves.

When the dance routine ended, the crowd of about 500,

arm in arm, broke into song with *Shosholoza*, followed immediately by a hearty rendition of the national anthem.

A self-appointed conductor took to the centre of the ring, and, overcome with emotion,

fell to his knees with arms outstretched.

Flash mob organiser John McInroy was "absolutely delighted" at how people reacted.

"What an amazingly magical moment. Seeing people of

all ages and mixed races getting lost in the moment united for that special, passionate experience.

"Everyone was hugging and high-fiving each other on such a vibe, ready for the soccer," he said. - West Cape News

Grim task of victims' identities

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international crisis management company, has set up camp. The company has been hired by Afrigiyah Airlines to help the families.

Yesterday the families were briefed on what will take place over the next few days.

Today they were due to start giving DNA samples. They will then be seen by counsellors before being briefed by experts on exactly what happened on Wednesday. In the days that follow they will be taken to identify the belongings of their relatives. Then they will wait for the process of identifying the remains.

Meanwhile Sapa-AP reports that relatives broke the news to the sole survivor, Ruben van Assouw, that his parents and brother died in the disaster. Authorities said the nine-year-old would return home today.

Yesterday, his aunt and uncle released a statement saying they had told the boy of the deaths of his parents, Trudy and Patrick van Assouw, and his brother, Enzo.

The family had been on a safari holiday in South Africa.

"Considering the circumstances, Ruben is doing well. He sleeps a lot. Now and then he is awake and... is clear," they said in the statement, read by Dutch Foreign Ministry official, Ed Kronenburg.

"We have two kinds of sorrow to deal with, because Ruben is in a very bad situation, but we have also lost family members," they said.

Kronenburg said Ruben would be taken home to the Netherlands today on a Libyan medical evacuation flight.

Orthopedic specialist Sadig Bendala said many factors could have played a role in Ruben's stunning survival,

including where he was seated in the plane. "It's something from God, that he wanted him to live longer."