

More than a million came to SA last month 05/07/2010

The number of foreign visitors to South Africa during the World Cup has exceeded a million, according to the Department of Home Affairs.

"This figure is expected to rise further as the World Cup enters the semi-finals," said department spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa yesterday.

The government this year launched a movement control system linked to SARS and law enforcement agencies. Mamoepa said the system enabled the government to monitor the movements of people entering the country, particularly during the period leading up to the World Cup, and during the tournament.

The system recorded 1020321 visitors entering the country between June 1 and July 1. About 819495 people visited South Africa in the corresponding period last year. This year's figure is a 25% increase.

Forty-three people classified as undesirable were not allowed into the country.

"The Home Affairs airline liaison officers in various airports abroad have denied entry to South Africa to 188 people due to possession of fraudulent documents - including visas, permits, travel documents and stamps - or failure to meet immigration requirements," said Mamoepa.

He said the system also recorded people from Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia as among the top visitors during the period.

They were followed by the UK, US, Germany, Australia, Brazil and Mexico.

About 300000 people flocked to Cape Town this weekend as Germany clashed with Argentina on Saturday.

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