

NetOne sets up World Cup fan parks

By [Dumisani Ndlela](#)

19 May 2010

Zimbabwe's mobile phone network operator NetOne has begun rolling out fan parks across the country ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to be hosted by South Africa in June.



Fan parks are enclosed public viewing areas where live matches will be shown on big screen TVs.

The network's MD, Reward Kangai, said a total of 16 sites would have fan parks, equipped with big screen television sets to afford communal viewing of the soccer showcase which is being held for the first time on the continent.

In Harare, the fan park has been launched in the Harare Gardens, an exquisite park that has hosted a number of entertainment events, and is home to the annual Zimbabwe International Book Fair.

Urban, rural regions covered

More parks are being set up in major urban areas including Gweru, Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Victoria Falls, Kwekwe, Masvingo and Mutare.

Rural areas that will benefit from the establishment of the fan parks are Murambinda, Nzvimbo, Murombedzi, Murehwa, Lupane, Gwanda, Gokwe and Mupandawana.

While NetOne's 16 sites for the fan parks is representative of the country's provincial demarcations, it will by far not cover all areas where soccer fans will desperately want to watch live coverage of the historic soccer tournament.

Government was expected to set up at least 40 World Cup fan parks but is unlikely to manage due to cash constraints.

ABOUT DUMISANI NDLELA

Dumisani Ndlela is a Zimbabwean journalist specialising in business and financial reporting, with experience reporting on commodities, stock and financial markets, advertising, marketing and the media. He has previously reported from a number of regional countries as well as from the UK and Germany on commodities and regional integration. He can be contacted on dndlela@yahoo.co.uk.

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