

Country: Kenya
 Source: Four Four Two
 Date: 11.07.2010

NIGERIA FourFourTwo THE ULTIMATE FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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Kenya beat Nigeria at Football for Hope final

By YSMedia on Sunday, 11th July 2010

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Search and Groom, Nigeria's representatives at the 2010 Football for Hope Festival lost the final match to MYSA of Kenya in a match played in Alexandra township, Johannesburg as the Football for Hope Festival 2010 ended in a chorus of drums yesterday.



Search and Groom, Nigeria's representatives IPhoto: Yomi Kuku

MYSA won the match 3-2 on penalty-kicks after the game ended 0-0, but just as Search and Groom had beaten Team Zambia in a shoot-out in the semi-final and then helped to dry the eyes of their rivals, the East Africans comforted their West African opponents after the match.

Esperance of Rwanda beat South Africa's Grassroot Soccer in the final of the Alexandra Cup, which was contested by teams knocked out earlier in the festival.

In the Football for Hope Festival final, there was a moment when the two sides – Search and Groom from Nigeria and MYSA from Kenya – had contradictory thoughts about whether a shot had crossed the goal-line. Since there were no referees at any of the matches, the teams came together in the middle of the pitch and decided between themselves how to resolve the situation.

It was an excellent example of what the participants had learned over two weeks of workshops, forums and training.

"You saw the spirit there," said Juergen Griesbeck, the Managing Director of streetfootballworld.

"It was the final, both teams wanted to win badly, maybe they had pressure from back home to do well, there were 3,000 people in the stadium, and still they showed the maturity to decide together without problems. Was it in? Was it out? They decided it was not in and played on, and they get all my respect for the way they handled it."

Although the youth were all focused on the work they were doing off the pitch, the matches were also taken very seriously.

"The main purpose is to have fun and learn from other peoples," said Search and Groom captain Suliat Yusuf, a 15-year-old girl from Lagos, who was displaced with her grandmother after their house was destroyed to build a motorway.

The organisation she represents is dedicated to fighting corruption and poverty, and she said she would like to become a lawyer in order to help people that grew up like her.

But first, she wanted the team in South Africa to draw attention to their cause.

"No one cares about us in Nigeria, but we wanted to do well so people would have to recognise us. They believe we are homeless and helpless – we wanted show them different."

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Kenya beat Nigeria at Football for Hope final

Search and Groom, Nigeria's representatives at the 2010 Football for Hope Festival lost the final match to MYSA of Kenya on penalty kicks in a match played in township of Alexandra in Johannesburg yesterday.



Nigeria qualifies for Quarterfinal at the "Football for Hope" Festival 2010

Nigeria qualified to play in the quarterfinal of the "Football for Hope" Festival 2010 with a top place finish in Group E. In the same group were Mali, Chile and Team South Africa.

African teams dominate at Football for Hope tournament

African teams are strongly represented in the second group stage of the Football for Hope tournament kicked off today in

