

Zain Africa Challenge 2010 – Ask Mwalimu

Episode 3, Show 11 – FIFA World Cup Host selection process.

A viewer named Chris has asked us to explain how nations are selected to host the FIFA World Cup. I'm sure many others have wondered that as well.

Some criteria for selecting a World Cup host nation have changed through the years. But, an essential part of the process has been that the national football association of a country must submit a bid for the right to host. The bid is not the same as an auction bid, but rather a plan of action that describes the steps that the country will take in order to put on a successful tournament, including improving stadiums and making provision for athletes, spectators and the media.

For a time, the selection criteria included that the right to host would be rotated among the various football confederations, and for 2010 it was Africa's turn. Bids came from South Africa, Morocco, Egypt and a joint bid from Libya and Tunisia, who hoped to host as Japan and South Korea had in 2002.

FIFA decided that joint bidding would not be allowed for 2010, so, Tunisia withdrew. Libya went ahead with a solo bid, but did not meet FIFA requirements, so the race was down to three.

Then it was up to FIFA's 24-member Executive Committee to put the question to a vote. South Africa received 14 votes, Morocco 10 and Egypt none.

And that's how it's done.

If there is a question you'd like to "Ask Mwalimu", email me at: mwalimu@zainafrichallenge.com or submit your query on our website at www.ZainAfricaChallenge.com