

A LEADING researcher has warned that the World Cup will have little economic impact on South Africa.

Dr Udesch Pillay, principal investigator and executive director at the Human Sciences Research Council, said the event presented many positives for the country, but its economic benefits had been

# Cup's economic benefits 'overstated'

overstated. Pillay's research on the World Cup has spanned almost five years and culminated in the publication of the book *Development and Dreams: The*

*Urban Legacy of the 2010 Football World Cup.*

In it, Pillay concludes that:

- The soccer showpiece will not significantly abate poverty or

accelerate levels of service delivery.

- Although 150 000 employment opportunities were created during the build-up to the event, these were mostly temporary and with little

skills transfer;

- Increased trade and investment flows have yet to materialise; and
- The boost to tourism was unlikely to exceed 0.5% of the country's GDP.

"I'm very excited about the World Cup, but I'm also pragmatic," said Pillay. — *Bongani Mthethwa*

