



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Launch of Aaron Mokoena Foundation in London on the 27 January 2010

Programme Director;

Aaron Mokoena;

Aaron Mokoena Foundation Team;

Distinguished guests;

Let me once again take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Sedibeng District Municipality situated in the Gauteng Province, in South Africa to thank the Aaron Mokoena Foundation for extending their invitation to us to join him at this significant and historic event.

It pleases me more every time I mention the name Sedibeng District Municipality, knowing that it is thousands of kilometers away from here.

I am here today with you, bringing you congratulatory and message of support from your brothers and sisters in Boipatong. This is the message

that we believe and trust that it will instill a sense of hope in you and your team as you continue to explore and travel the world.

We find ourselves in London today to celebrate with you, one of our own, our South African National Football Team (Bafana Bafana) Captain, a true son of the soil

This launch here today in London comes almost 134 days to the hosting of the FIFA Soccer World Cup Tournament, the historic football event which will touch the African soil for the first time through the South African soil.

This important occasion takes place at time when our District Municipality is engaged in preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre scheduled for the 21st March 2010, a Special Anniversary in commemoration, remembrance and celebration of the gallant heroes and heroines who stood the test of time, some of who are fallen who made it their project to fight for the freedom that we today enjoy in South Africa.

Programme Director, very importantly, this launch here today comes eight months after its historic inaugural launch in South Africa, Sedibeng District Municipality to be specific, on the 28th May 2009

On this day, I reported that the Sedibeng District Municipality adopted the 2010 Strategy in October 2007 to position the Region to take advantage of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup to create a better life for our people in

Sedibeng. I then went further to announce our readiness for this historic international Tournament

I on behalf of the people of Sedibeng District Municipality committed ourselves and embraced the partnership which we established at the inaugural launch of the Aaron Mokoena Foundation in South African in May 2009. I concluded by announcing that our lives will surely never be the same again.

Although not one of the host cities, we committed ourselves to ensuring that there will be fan parks and public viewing sites with a unique African experience across our District Municipality during this magnificent international show piece.

Aaron Mokoena and the people of Sedibeng will surely be pleased and encouraged to hear that we are touring the world concluding our final touch ups with the two National Teams which we have managed to attract and convince to select Sedibeng District Municipality as their Base Camp during the Tournament.

We hope and trust that the coaching clinics and other activities which go along with this launch today and some which will be unfolding in future will surely be beneficial to all, young and old alike, rich and poor.

As we continue with our preparations for the FIFA Soccer World Cup scheduled for June 2010, we would like to take this advantage to invite you, our brothers and sisters to experience the beauty of our region and our rich heritage. I am here referring to the dusty streets and corners, the dusty sports fields which made Aaron Mokoena what he is today. *A world star indeed! The role model to whom our kids and aspiring football stars look up to!*

This I say with confidence that Aaron 'Mbazo' Mokoena as he is affectionately known, would have told you convincing stories which made you develop an interest in visiting Sedibeng to experience our diverse cultural heritage and history.

Mbazo, congratulations and well done on your endeavours, your contributions will surely not go unnoticed. Your continued demonstration that football can be a tool to improve the lives of our people will always be appreciated and supported by us.

We recommit ourselves to sustain these efforts and promise to undertake similar initiative annually as promised.

To the Aaron Mokoena Foundation organizers and other institutions, business and the media at large, thanks for the job well done.

Kenako! South Africa eagerly awaits you.

I thank you