



Message of condolences by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the funeral service of Mr. Samuel Japhta Motsoari held on the 11th April 2010, at the Rhoda Yende Hall, Sharpeville, in Sedibeng

Motsamaise wa mosebetsi;

Ntate Motsoari's family, colleagues & friends;

The Soccer Legends present;

Comrades and friends;

People of Sharpeville & mourners;

As we gather here today to bid one of our gallant legends farewell, I bring you the message of condolences from the people of Sedibeng District Municipality. The message that we believe is of hope.

It is exactly 60 days before the kick off of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa later this year. I believe and trust that you have already purchased your tickets and your vuvuzelas are ready to roar...

Today as we mourn the passing on of this gallant legend, we do so remembering the seventh anniversary of that fateful night of Wednesday, 11 April 2001, the night that came to be known as the *South Africa's worst soccer disaster*.

This is the period when the 43 soccer loving supporters were crushed to death at the Ellis Park Stadium, the period which brought about scars which will never be forgotten in the history of our football. We bow our heads in honour and remembrance of the victims of this historic day

Brothers & Sisters, it is with great shock and sadness that we heard of the passing on of Samuel Japhta Motsoari, the former Diva Santos FC and Vaal Professionals player, the best winger that South Africa and Vaal Triangle had produced in the dark days of apartheid.

The late Japhta as he was affectionately known was a player that you would agree with me when I say he was of a special caliber. His playing days would have shamed a lot of the players currently parading their skills on the world stage.

I take this opportunity to express our most profound and sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Ntate Motsoari for the loss of their family member. We also wish to extend similar condolences to the legends, all his friends, comrades and colleagues

We will always remember his prime days, during the heydays of such strong teams as Directors FC and Crocodile FC from the Sharpeville Hostel, Red Pirates FC ya Ntate Rampai. The Red Pirates Team, which had just beaten the famous Orlando Pirates and PUBS in 1970 and 1971 respectively.

Out of the dusty ground of Phelindaba, next to James Shop opposite Emmanuel Primary School, arose the boys in Purple and White, like a phoenix, arose Giant Birds, a team that Japhta was able to raise to very high levels.

Together with Eusobio in Giant Birds, they used to terrorize the best that Directors FC and Crocodile FC could offer, they took X20 FC to the cleaners. Matches between Giant Birds FC and Red Pirates FC, were legendary in their own.

Theses clashes would have shamed the Chiefs/Pirates derby, which has produced no goals for the entire year. Japhta always came to the party, there goals were galore.

It is in honour of all our soccer legends, the late Japhta and the Malome Phiri's of this Region, the Mzozo Maleke, Guiney "the Best" More, and many more that the Sedibeng District Municipality will be hosting three 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Teams in our Region.

The stalwarts of South African football, the likes of the late Uncle George Thabe, will certainly receive Japhta with great pride in heaven. We hope that the community of Sharpeville in particular and Sedibeng in general will be the gracious hosts we have come to know.

The coming of these teams gave us the opportunity as the Sedibeng District Municipality to rally resources for the improvements on the stadia that are going to be used as training grounds.

Sharpeville is going to be totally different with the improvements that are going to be effected in the next hundred days and beyond. Fan parks will be developed, which will serve as community socializing spaces well beyond the World Cup, which parks we hope will be taken good care of by our communities.

As indeed there is no orphan in the Lord, were it not so, he would have told us, instead he says: *“Ho lehlohonolo ba llang hobane batla tshediswa”*- *“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”*

I once again on behalf of the people of Sedibeng, extend our heartfelt condolences to Ntate Motsoari’s family, friends, comrades and colleagues during this difficult time. May his death serve to remind all of us to strive for unity and to put the well-being of Sharpeville, soccer fraternity and our

Region and the people above all our personal and sectarian considerations

In recognising the contribution and role played by our legends in the development of professional football in our country and the Region, I commit myself to ensuring that the Sedibeng Soccer Legends receive support from the Sedibeng District Municipality to realise their goals.

Ya itshepelang Jehova, le botshepehi ba Oona, eka kgona a dule ka kgotso hara ditshiu tsohle tsa bophelo. Tshedisehang ke hona. Jehova one a adimile mme o latile.

Long live the spirit of Japhta Motsoari, long live!!

Long live the spirit of the Sedibeng Soccer Legends, long live!!

He will be solely missed by all. May his soul rest in peace

Ke a leboha