



**Welcome remarks by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Oversight Visit by the Select Committee on Trade & International Relations on Friday, 30 April 2010, at 09h00, at the Riverside & Emerald Hotels, Vanderbijlpark, Sedibeng**

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Honourable DD Gamede: Chairperson: Select Committee on Trade & International Relations;

MECs;

Members of the Select Committee on Trade & International Relations;

Members of the Select Committee on Economic Development;

Members of Mayoral Committees present;

Local Organising Committee CEO;

2010 Coordinators;

Emerald Hotel representatives;

Members of the media;

Please be assured that I have not been involved in a motor-car accident. The swollen lip is a result of a terrible flu that has laid me low for the last few days. My apologies if I sound a little off-key this morning.

Allow me to welcome all of you to this grand hotel on the banks of the Vaal River this morning. The question that has dominated the national agenda for some time now has been the question of the state of readiness of our country to host the greatest sporting spectacle of all, the FIFA Soccer World Cup.

It has been our view that the countries overall state of readiness lies in each and every area of our country being ready to chip in and do their part for the success of our nation and for the success of Africa.

***Is Sedibeng ready?*** Before I answer this vital question allow me to state the following:

- Sedibeng is hosting 2 teams in our region (Switzerland and Ivory Coast) and if you consider that Mexico is staying in Kibler Park Johannesburg but training at Waterstone College in Midvaal that would give us a third team.
- The Ivoirians will be staying at this wonderful hotel and their training ground at George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville is well on track for hosting their training sessions.

- The Swiss will be staying just down the river at the Emerald Hotel and training at the Isaak Steyl stadium at the Vaal University of Technology.
- The Swiss Ambassador was with us a few days ago and jointly we inspected the hotel and the training venue and he was more than pleased with the level of readiness.
- His Excellency, Ambassador Rudolf Braefuss, is going beyond the football ties by arranging that our welcoming party for the Swiss team and the Swiss Head of State, will be preceded by a business meeting with the leading Swiss companies in South Africa. We are determined to get maximum benefit out of the event.
- To prepare to be not just good hosts, but excellent hosts, a delegation from Sedibeng travelled to London, Switzerland and Ivory Coast in February this year to ensure that our preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is not based on perceptions of what we think will be required, but instead we met with the respective Football Associations, travel agents, fan clubs, embassies and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure that our preparations are matched to real expectations.

- The Senior Political Leadership meets every Monday and receives reports from 12 tasks teams that keeps us updated on progress and outstanding tasks in relation to the upcoming event. Just to indicate the level of detail we are applying ourselves to let me name these tasks teams:
  - We have Task team that is exclusively liaising with Ivory Coast and ensuring that all matters related to this team are in order. We are expecting large numbers of travelling fans from this country.
  - We have a Swiss Liaison task Team
  - We have a task team on Safety & Security
  - Transport
  - Media & Publicity
  - Protocol
  - Tourism
  - Sports, Recreation and games
  - Community mobilisation
  - Health, Environment at Cleansing
  - And we will add a team to liaise with Mexico.
  
- We have also setup at fully function Control Centre which we are calling of World Cup 'Battleroom' which will be the nerve centre of our

coordination of our offering. It has satellite monitoring of sports channels, international news channels, CCTV monitoring of key areas around the region, 24 computer stations, Emergency Services communications. It is our Joint Operations Centre.

- As from tomorrow, staff drawn from all across our municipalities, have been seconded to work fulltime in ensuring that all outstanding tasks are completed in the remaining days to come.
- Our Primary Public Viewing Areas are Sault Tsoetsi in Sebokeng and the Vereeniging Civic precinct. We are ready for some great public viewing at these large sites.
- Sedibeng is also sponsoring 15 sites on our poorest communities to ensure that at the least we have large projectors, satellite decoders and sound systems for all our people to be a part of the tournament.

So, Ladies and Gentleman. Is Sedibeng ready to play its part in the national success? I can say with great confidence, "We are more than ready"

I thank you.