



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Goodbye 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Gala Dinner held at the Riviera on Vaal Hotel on Wednesday, 14 July 2010, in Sedibeng

Programme Director: MMC Mluleki Nkosi;

Lesedi Local Municipality Executive Mayor: Cllr. Busisiwe Modisakeng;

Emfuleni Local Municipality **Acting** Executive Mayor: Cllr. Exec Moepadira;

Sedibeng District Municipality Madam Speaker: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Emfuleni Local Municipality Madam Speaker: Cllr. Greta Hlongwane;

Aaron Mokoena & the Aaron Mokoena Foundation;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to greet you all at this historic occasion. A lot of questions have been asked from everywhere as to our ability to provide host to this magnificent 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Our country has

once again, risen from great noise of skepticism coming from all quarters to silence these critics on our ability to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Programme Director, allow me to take pride and rejoice. On behalf of the community of Sedibeng and our constituent Local Municipalities, let me blow my Vuvuzela and say: *“We collectively did, we collectively delivered a spectacular and amazing Tournament”* Despite the fact that we in Sedibeng District Municipality were not hosting any of the 64 games which were on offer, we have put in our fair share of work.

The stadiums which were used as training venues were handed over from our District to the Local Organizing Committee on time. These stadiums were used as training bases for both Switzerland and Ivory Coast. Our guests were totally happy with our offerings. No word of complaint was heard from them. The hospitality was of world class status.

I had the pleasure of taking the Ambassador of Switzerland and his entourage through the venue and parts of Sedibeng. I can say that they were very pleased. They are contemplating investing in the Region.

They were shocked at the good work we are doing. It is disturbing however, that we do not appreciate all the hard work that we have and continue to put into this Region. We are forever skeptical and negative in all the things we do. We needed the Swiss to remind us and show us the

good work we do and yet continue to take for granted. The lasting legacy of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World will be felt by all of us long after the last whistle is blown. Our communities will surely feel the 2010 FIFA World Cup fever for a long time after its historic staging in our African soil.

Sedibeng District Municipality provided some of the most vibrant Public Viewing Areas across the entire Region. These PVA's gave all of us who had no tickets to the games, an experience second to none.

I am pleased to report that over 200 youth were exposed to world class coaching clinics PSV Eindhoven as part of our legacy from the 2010 World Cup.

Comrades & friends, we may have been unable to qualify for the second round of the tournament, but as the lowest ranked team, we ended number twenty out of the 32 teams.

We beat a team ranked 9th, that is France, former World Champs. We held Mexico to a draw, no.... in fact they held for dear life to get a draw against us.

We had 3.1 million fans attending the games. There was no blood in the streets, nor wanton rape and mayhem, even when the British tried to create security breaches, we nipped it in the bud. I am so proud to be South African at this moment and I hope all of you feel that way.

It is only the lunatic fringe, driven by criminal intent, perpetrating violence against foreign African nationals that makes me angry. We will not tolerate any attacks on anybody here in Sedibeng. I am aware that our MMC for Social Service, Councillor Maipato Tsokolibane is working together with the relevant authority both in our Region and the Province to ensure that this is nipped in the bud.

I urge and call on the law and order agencies to augment these efforts by dealing with these thugs swiftly and severely. We will not allow it to happen here in Sedibeng.

Our Captain Fantastic, Aaron Mokoena, the pride of Sedibeng, on the 11th of June led the troops on the hallowed turf of Soccer City, which was officially opened by President Zuma on the 20th May. I know that vuvuzelas from the entire Sedibeng spurred him on. I am told that he was able to hear all vuvuzelas from Sedibeng.

In conclusion, the can do attitude that pushed the entire nation to this level of excellence, will and does spur us on to do more for our communities. With our communities on our sides as partners and owners of all developments in our townships, we will indeed.

“Together with our communities, a final push to speedy service delivery”

Let me once again emphasise the need to continue to work with the Aaron Mokoena Foundation on the areas of sporting development and education in our Region. In this regard SDM needs to work with the AMF to:

- Develop a Study Centre based on the model that has been setup by Portsmouth Football Club next to the Portsmouth Football Stadium. A delegation visited the facility in January this year and the noble idea of teaching reading, writing and speaking skills through the theme of football is one that will appeal to South African children.
- The need for development of football coaches so that at the grass roots level, good coaching and training are available to young boys and girls who have talent.

The Sedibeng District Municipality together with the National and Provincial Departments and the AMF must partner to make this idea come true.

The basis of success in the World Cups of years 2018, 2022 and beyond must be laid now in a strong mass based participation programme.

- The dream of a Football Academy must be pursued collectively so that those who emerge from the mass participation scheme have a place to

take their talents beyond the amateur and to get noticed by professional clubs around the world.

- Aaron has made Sedibeng proud of the manner in which he conducted himself during the World Cup and his on the field performances were exemplary and distinguished.

Best wishes to Aaron for the 2010/2011 football season that lies ahead. On behalf of the people of Sedibeng, I further convey my message of appreciation to our Bafana Bafana and the beautiful and colourful South African supporters for ensuring that the stay of our foreign nationals in our Region was a warm one that made them feel at home.

I thank you