

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY COUNCILLOR CHRIS VONDO: MMC FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FOOTBALL COACHES SYMPOSIUM, RAND STADIUM, JOHANNESBURG, 15
AUGUST 2014**

Programme Director,

President of the South African Football Coaches Association, Mr Greg Mashilo

Our esteemed Brazilian guest and Youth Coaching Instructor, Mr Manoel Neto

Football Coaches

Football Players

Ladies & Gentlemen

Good Day

It is a privilege and honour for me to welcome you all to our beautiful City of Joburg – ***A World Class African City.***

I'm sure many of you will agree that the choice of the venue is aptly. Rand Stadium has a peculiar history. In March 1976 an exhibition match between a multi-racial South African Team and Argentina was played here, at that time it was something unheard of.

That match brought black and white South Africans together, it was a strange paradox in a sense that a multi-racial team was representing South Africa in the field of play; but spectators were seated separately along racial lines. However, it was the power of sport, and the power of football that made everyone in this very stadium to shout Jomo! Jomo!, when he scored the four goals that helped South Africa to beat Argentina 5-0.

Programme Director, then we were a proud country that was holding its own against the best in the world. Who will forget our historic victories against Argentina in 1976, another triumph by the black XI against the British XI also in the 70's here at the Rand Stadium, as well as the 1996 AFCON victory at the FNB Stadium.

Sadly, today we all know that we are no longer a force to be reckoned with in World Football circles. Programme Director, I must acknowledge that this Football Coaches Symposium, held under the banner ***A Nation in Search of its Soul – a Dawn of a Coaching Revolution*** will breathe fresh air into our football.

Programme Director, as we celebrate ***20 Years of Freedom*** our quest for social cohesion remain on top of our agenda, and it is for this reason we support initiatives like South African Football Coaches Association's (SAFCA) double goal approach.

We believe that this initiative will support other government initiatives of ensuring that our players, coaches, managers and youth in general are responsible citizens. We can't afford to stand by and watch our youth succumb to alcohol and drug abuse. It is precisely why the City of Joburg has entered into this nation building partnerships.

Let me remind you what Oliver Reginald Tambo, one of our pathfinders in our struggle for a just and free South Africa said and I quote: "a nation that doesn't take care of its youth doesn't deserve its future", close quote.

Therefore, as coaches I'm optimistic that you are in the most powerful positions to help us in our endeavour to influence our youth positively. Your vision of breeding double goal coaches is in tune with the realities facing many of our boys and girls in our communities.

Programme Director, my understanding is that a double goal coach will take a holistic approach in dealing with players; the focus will be on matters that are technical in nature as well as life skills. As government we applaud such efforts and we believe that sport has the power to change the world.

In his words, our former late President Nelson Mandela said and I quote, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand.

Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all kinds of discrimination", close quote.

As coaches; the symposium's theme – ***A Nation in Search of its Soul – a Dawn of a Coaching Revolution***, demonstrates your level of commitment as coaches to tackle the challenges facing our football head on.

Programme Director, I would like to reiterate that as the City of Joburg we will support your programs that will develop and empower our players from grassroots level. In addition, we will support programs that will encourage mass participation so that we can have a larger pool of players to develop and turn into responsible citizens of our country.

I want to emphasize that an initiative like this one is closer to our heart because it responds to the City's guiding document, ***Growth & Development Strategy Joburg 2040 (GDSJoburg20140)***, which makes a special reference to development of sports because our view is that through mass participation in sports, identification of talent would take place.

We also concur with SAFFCA that we need to know our past and understand our present in order to determine our future. As the City of Joburg we applaud and appreciate SAFFCA's approach in crafting a plan to deal with on the field challenges facing our local football.

Therefore, I would like to invite all of you, to play a significant role in the development of football. Programme Director, at this moment, I would like to once more take this opportunity to congratulate one of our own – Bra Shakes Mashaba on his recent appointment as the National Coach of Bafana Bafana. We are confident that he will utilise the available resources within SAFFCA to lead our country back to its winning days.

As I conclude, I would like to wish you the best of luck in your deliberations. I hope that at the end of the Symposium; you will come up with a strategic direction that will seriously require instant implementation, monitoring and execution.

You are all welcome, I thank You.