

Handover of Soccer City

02 June 2010

Speech by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Clr Amos Masondo, on the occasion of the handover ceremony of Soccer City, Soccer City, NASREC – Johannesburg

Programme Director

The Honourable Minister of Sports and Recreation: Reverend Makhenkesi Stofile,

Honourable Deputy Minister of Communication: Ms. Dina Pule

Honourable Premier: Ms Nomvula Mokonyane,

Members of the Provincial Legislatures

FIFA President: Mr Joseph Sepp Blatter

MMC for Community Development: Clr Bafana Sithole

Members of the Mayoral Committee

CAF President: Mr Issa Hayatou,

SAFA President: Mr Kirsten Nemantandani

FIFA Secretary General: Mr Jerome Valcke,

LOC Chairman: Mr Irvin Khoza

LOC CEO: Dr Danny Jordaan

Distinguished Guests

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, when the City handed over the stadium to Grinaker/Lta Interbeton to start work on the stadium on 17 of January 2007, we were one thousand two hundred and forty (1 240) days to the kick-off. Today we are a mere 8 days away from the "biggest sporting spectacle on the globe". Today, what you see before you, is an indication of the journey we have travelled so far.

This site is important in more ways than one:

- It was here that Nelson Mandela addressed more than 100 000 people 3 days after his release from prison in February 1990.
- It was at this venue where more than 80 000 mourners gathered to pay their last respects to Chris Hani, the ANC and the South African Communist Party leader, who was assassinated on 10 April 1993.
- It was here where the masses of South Africa gathered again a week later to pay their last respects to the President of the ANC, OR Tambo who had passed on.
- The finals of the African Cup of Nations in February 1996 were played in this very stadium, in a game where Bafana Bafana beat Tunisia 2-0. Bafana Bafana, then went on to defeat Congo 1-0 to qualify for the first time for the 1998 FIFA World Cup.

Ladies and gentlemen you will agree with me when I say that this venue has a lot of history.

Programme Director in the construction of this stadium alone the following has been achieved

- Over 17200 jobs have been created, with no fatalities or serious injuries.

- Over 800 members of the community received formal training and received accredited certification in areas such as bricklaying, crane operators, foremen, surveying and computers.
- Over 150 subcontractors were contracted to the value of R1.6 billion to provide various construction services such as steel work, concrete plumbing, electrical and transportation with on the job skills development for working heights and rope work.

Work in the precinct included the following

- Construction of a transport hub and BRT station
- Pedestrian Promenade
- Installation CCTV cameras and additional lighting
- Landscaping
- widening and upgrading of feeder roads
- rehabilitation of the slime dams

Today marks the full realisation of what the City had set out to do in its preparations to host the "best world cup ever".

Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me to indicate, as many have already stated so many times before, that the best team of this World Cup will be crowned here on 11 July 2010.

Thank you