

Launch of the Football Training Centre, Klipspruit

09 June 2010

Programme Director

The Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

SAFA President: Mr Kirsten Nematandani

NOCOSA President: Mr Sam Ramsay

SASCOC CEO: Mr Tubby Reddy

Your Excellency, Ambassador to the USA: Mr Donald Gibbs

Members of the Mayoral Committee

The City Manager: Mavela Dlamini

Secretary of Housing & Urban Development in the USA: Mr S Donovan

GPG Chief Directorate: Mr Ivor Hoff

SAFA CEO: Mr Leslie Sedibe

Distinguished Guests

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, it is indeed both an honour and a privilege for me to be part of this important occasion - the launch of this Football Training Centre, here in Klipspruit, Soweto.

When South Africa was awarded the honour to host the FIFA World Cup in May 2004, the countdown began. The years then turned into months; months into weeks, weeks into days; and today we are a mere one (1) day away from the start of the biggest sporting spectacle on the globe.

We note with appreciation, that this Football Training Centre will give 20, 000 young footballers the chance to develop their football talent. More impressive, is the fact that this training will be accompanied by access to HIV and AIDS education through a football life skills programme.

Programme Director, any nation's health and its status in development is also measured by the extent of its sporting activities and achievements.

Sport, amongst others, is therefore one of the indicators by which we can measure the advancement of our society.

The City of Johannesburg continues to promote, facilitate and encourage the development of sport. We are aiming at positioning Johannesburg as one of the global sporting destinations of choice. We will always endeavour to further broaden the municipality's involvement in all the different sporting codes. This includes: Cricket, Rugby, Athletics, Cycling, Soccer/Football, Golf and many others.

The City of Johannesburg holds an Annual Mayoral Charity Golf Day in August. This Golf Day serves as a fund-raising event for the "Buckets of Love and Care Campaign". A project through which the City extends a hand of support to individuals and families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Our outreach extends to organisations operating in the City of Johannesburg

that supports orphans, vulnerable groups, child headed households and destitute families.

Our goal remains that of seeking to primarily change behaviour, mitigate circumstances and conditions of those affected and infected. We seek to add our voice to the broader campaign aimed at ensuring greater awareness.

Ours is a comprehensive approach that goes well beyond just providing drugs (ART).

The City of Johannesburg's HIV and AIDS Strategy was developed in line with the National AIDS Plan adopted in 2002 by both government and various civil society organisations. This Strategy was reviewed in 2006. We then saw, soon after this, the development and adoption of the New HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan of 2007 to 2011.

The City's programme focuses on the following:

- Prevention of new HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections;
- Community Mobilisation and Support programme;
- Provision of Comprehensive Clinical Care Management and treatment support programme;
- Research, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Legal and constitutional - fighting stigma, discrimination and upholding the rights of individuals infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

In the City of Johannesburg, in our continual efforts to combat the challenges around HIV and AIDS, we have activated three (3) new sites between July and December 2009, which provide antiretroviral treatment. The City's ward based Jozi Ihlomile Programme is now running in 24 informal settlements across the City and employs 480 volunteers. Through this programme we reached about 48 000 households.

In the City of Johannesburg we have always said that government working alone and in isolation will not be able to effectively address the complex challenges that face our society. To succeed, we need a partnership across all spheres of government, amongst and with civil society organizations, business as well communities

Programme Director, the fight against poverty, remains key and central to the work that we do in government. The completion and launching of this Football Training Centre will go a long way towards ensuring that the partnership between government, business, civil society organisations and communities, deliver the intended results.

Nike's involvement in using football to make young footballers become good football players on and off the pitch, shows that tackling a complex challenge such as HIV and AIDS needs more than just government. Your contribution is truly appreciated.

Programme Director, I would also like to take this opportunity, although my heart is with

Bafana Bafana, to wish all the teams well in their endeavours - and - may the best team win.

Ke nako

Thank you

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