

## Redevelopment of Orlando Stadium

15 June 2008

### **Statement by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Amos Masondo, at the media briefing on the occasion of the redevelopment of Orlando Stadium, Orlando stadium, Soweto - Johannesburg**

Madam Speaker: Clr Nkele Ntingane

Chief Whip of Council: Clr Bafana Sithole

MMC for Community Development: Clr Nandi Mayathula-Khoza

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councillors

2010 Local Organising Committee

City Manager: Mr Mavela Dlamini

Managers and Officials of Council

Officials of SAFA

Officials of Local Amateur Soccer Associations

Representatives of Jomo Cosmos, Orlando Pirates, Kaizer Chiefs and Moroko Swallows

Distinguished Guests

Community of the Greater Soweto and Orlando East

The media

Ladies and Gentleman

Today we mark yet another milestone in our work.

Every passing day brings us another step closer to that much anticipated first whistle that will start the 2010 FIFA World Cup at Soccer City, in the Nasrec Precinct.

Perhaps it is appropriate to indicate that today, as we gather here, it is a mere six hundred and eighty (680) days before the first ball is kicked.

On the 3rd of May 2006, a day after Orlando Stadium celebrated its 47th anniversary we stood at almost this exact spot when we handed her - the 'old lady' to the contractors. On that day we marked the City of Johannesburg's ground-breaking movement towards the first 2010 project to be initiated by the City.

On the 2nd of May 2008, Orlando Stadium celebrated its 49th anniversary. During the Confederations Cup in 2009, Orlando Stadium will be 50 years old.

When we announced that Orlando Stadium will be demolished and reconstructed, we had a vision of what the new Stadium would look like and what it would mean to the community of Greater Orlando.

As per our commitment in 2006, that we will make this facility a multi-purpose stadium, in addition to the technical compliance, we also have the following facilities:

- A multi-purpose stadium for soccer, rugby, gatherings and concerts amongst others.
- Hospitality: plus or minus 120 suites (dependent on size)
- Conference facilities
- Meeting Rooms

- Weddings, Matric Dances and similar functions
- Gymnasium
- Fan shop
- Offices
- Video Screens
- Security facilities including CCTV cameras that extend into the precinct

This stadium is being rebuilt at a cost of R280 million. Twenty five percent (25%) of this amount came from Municipal Infrastructure Grant and seventy five (75%) percent from the City's budget.

In addition to the stadium and precinct, well-lit footways from Orlando and Mlamlankunzi stations have been provided. Surveillance cameras are to be extended to these footways to improve spectator safety.

In support of all these Council initiatives, the South African Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) is also upgrading the Orlando Station. Together with their agent Intersite, they will design and construct the new station and facilities.

The mood of 2010 is one of excitement and vibrancy and as residents, investors and the media we all need to play our part in nurturing this development and make it a self - sustainable facility.

The community at large has benefited from this development through the jobs that have been created. To date 2 205 jobs have been created and training is being provided in the fields of carpentry, bricklaying, plastering and painting.

Orlando Stadium should again become one of the important homes of football in Soweto. It must re-establish itself as the heart of community activities in this community.

Orlando Stadium will be completed on time, within budget and without compromising quality as per the commitment we made when we handed it over to the developers in May 2006. The stadium will be complete by November 2008.

It is important to mention that the inauguration of this Stadium will take place on the night of 23rd November 2008 with an exiting line up of soccer games. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the inauguration. If all goes well, the Soccer Legends will be the first to kick the ball.

Orlando Stadium represents a change in Soweto's skyline.

In conclusion, let me re-emphasise that for us in the City, we see this project as part of a bigger programme of restoring the dignity of our people. It is one of the legacy projects meant to benefit the community long after the Soccer spectacular has come and gone.

Thank you.