

Speech at the Annual Mayoral Golf Day

31 August 2007

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG, CLR AMOS MASONDO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL MAYORAL GOLF DAY AND CHARITY DINNER, THE ROYAL JOHANNESBURG AND KENSINGTON GOLF CLUB, KENSINGTON - JOHANNESBURG

Programme Director

Madam Speaker: Clr Nkele Ntingane

Chief Whip: Bafana Sithole

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councilors

Senior Managers and Officials of Council

Sponsors and Investors

The Business Community

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation for your participation in this golf day. This occasion serves as a fundraising 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.

Your participation in this initiative demonstrates the resolve of a people in this municipality to strive towards creating a more caring society. I am also encouraged by reading into all of this, that the business community takes a far more positive and optimistic view of the City's future and that of our citizens.

Programme Director, it is of significance to note that this Annual Mayoral Charity Golf Day coincides with the month in which our Nation commemorates the 51st anniversary of the 1956 Women's march to Strydom's Office in Pretoria. The women as we all know are a central pillar of our liberation and democracy. The gender equality and the emancipation of women remain one of the central projects as we deepen our freedom.

We have indeed come a long way since 1956. Our greatest challenge and the best way to honour those who participated in the march is to better the quality of life for all South Africans. We must win the fight against poverty and unemployment.

In the City of Johannesburg we continue to grapple with these and other related challenges. We seek to intensify our fight against HIV and AIDS, to address the issues of housing, public safety, service delivery, migration and urbanisation, economic growth, globalisation urban renewal and regeneration of our City as well as sustainable development with renewed sense of urgency.

We would like to see the private sector, organisations of civil society, the community at large and government continuing to work together in partnership. In this City we have said, over and over again that government working alone and in isolation will never adequately address all the challenges that face us.

Since its inaugural launch in 2004, the Mayoral Charity Golf event has raised a total of R1 953 500. In 2004 we raised R121 500, in 2005 R632 000 and an additional R1. 2 million in 2006. I am made to believe that the target for this year is to raise more than R1 and half million. I have no doubt that our business partners will support this charitable cause. As I look around the room, I see a number of faces, which were here since 2004.

The funds raised in 2004 went towards helping the Ethembini Children's home in Doorfontein, which is run by the Salvation Army. With the funds raised in 2005, we were able to put smiles on people who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS by providing 3 000 buckets of love parcels that were filled with groceries, fruits and vegetables. These funds helped the elderly who are looking after grandchildren, child headed families, and those that are sick and bedridden.

Programme Director, in July 2006, the City from funds raised through the Mayoral Charity Golf Day was able to distribute 800 blankets to, amongst others the children who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS in greater Ivory Park area.

Funds raised from the 2006 Mayoral Charity Golf Day helped to reach more than 5 000 families and individuals across Johannesburg through our partnerships with the faith based organisations, non-governmental organisations and the Johannesburg AIDS Council.

We were able to host a party for 350 orphans in December at the Johannesburg Zoo; we supported 75 orphans with groceries at Protea South Primary School, we hosted a party for the senior citizens of our City and we also distributed 2 000 food voucher to destitute families with funds we raised in 2006.

This year we are looking at assisting projects, which will include drop in centres, these are projects where children are provided with breakfast before they go to school and lunch after school, street children centres and centres for abused women and children amongst others.

Through our Jozi Ihlomile campaign we have been involved amongst others in the following programmes:

- adopt a block – visit to families and households to provide support, education and ensuring relevant referrals.
- community education aimed at empowering members of the community.
- support people living with HIV and AIDS – this includes counselling, ART programmes, treatment as well as training volunteers.
- nutrition programme which focuses mainly on healthy foods and nutrition.
- home-base care services with a lot of emphasis on looking after the sick.
- voluntary counselling and testing through partnerships that includes Family Health International, Right to Care, Mobile VCT Services and VCT promotion strategy.
- Indigent burials characterised by helping to bury those from extremely poor families.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your support and involvement in this event has shown that tackling a complex challenge such as HIV and AIDS needs more than government. Together we can contribute towards making Johannesburg a better community and South Africa a better country.

Programme Director, please allow me to thank all the sponsors of this initiative. I hope to see these faces and more as we try to make a difference.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone present here tonight. Your contribution is fully appreciated.

Thank you.