

## **Metropolitan sponsors Human Rights Four Nations Soccer Tournament in honour of the Sharpeville Massacre heroes and heroines**

*Wednesday - 24 March 2010*

As part of the national commemorations to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, the Sedibeng District Municipality will play host to the Under 20 National Team of South Africa - affectionately known as Amajita - and National Teams from Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland competing in this year's Four Nations tournament which kick offs on Thursday, 25 March 2010.

The Executive Mayor of Sedibeng, Councillor Mahole Simon Mofokeng, says the Sedibeng District Municipality is pleased to once again host the Four Nations Soccer Tournament after having hosted the same tournament for the under 17s last year during the annual Human Rights Month. The tournament will be played in honour of the 69 people who died and many others who were left maimed, orphaned and injured by the 21 March 1960 shooting of unarmed protesters by the then police force in Sharpeville while protesting against the pass laws.

"It's important for the people of Sharpeville and the country to remember those fallen heroes and heroines of the 21 March 1960 Sharpeville Massacre and through this tournament, we will be doing so," he says.

"The Four Nations Soccer Tournament this year is held in honour of those victims and survivors of the aggressive and destabilising apartheid sponsored raids and massacres that took place in our own Sharpeville", added Councillor Mahole Simon Mofokeng

All the games will be played at the Boipatong Stadium, just a few kilometres away from where the actual massacre took place, over a period of three days from Thursday, 25 March to Saturday, 27 March 2010.

"We from the Sedibeng Municipality can guarantee that teams and visitors will enjoy the warmth and support of our soccer loving people here," said Mayor Mofokeng.

Christabell Kota, General Manager at Metropolitan, says that as a company dedicated to community development and development football is a great vehicle because of its reach.

"Metropolitan is proud to be associated with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre. As Africans, it is important that we remember our history and heritage so that we may continue to appreciate the sacrifices made for the freedom we now enjoy". she says. "As an organisation, we see development football as an integral part of giving something back,, restoring our people's dignity and thereby re-building pride in the communities we serve."

South African Football Association (SAFA) President Kirsten Nemantandani said he is excited about this year's tournament because it has so much meaning for a number of South African citizens.

"If ever there was a time to honour the heroes of the struggle, it would be now," he said. "It's the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre and for me it's exciting that the Four Nations Soccer Tournament will be played where it happened."



The draw will be held at Emerald Resort and Casino in Vanderbijlpark on Wednesday, 24 March 2010. The semi final games will kick off at 3pm on Thursday and Friday. The losers will compete for the third spot on Saturday at 12pm, with the final scheduled for 3pm at the Boipatong Stadium.

Ends

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