

Tuesday, 13 July 2010

Thank you Sedibeng!

A message from the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality as the 2010 World Cup comes to an end

I am humbled and honoured at the way in which our country and the people of the Sedibeng District hosted our local and international visitors and embraced the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

This tournament has been a nation builder. It has given us hope about future possibilities for the South African Rainbow nation. We have shown that international best practice is indeed possible when the stakes are high. It is this principle that will be replicated and duplicated going forward, certainly in this District and in our three local municipalities. Our teams have demonstrated that commitment, team work, rigorous planning, clear communication and tight budgeting can bring incredible results.

We have hosted two international teams and ensured the people of the District had access to the FIFA World Cup matches through well over 15 public viewing areas set up across the District. For the most part, all aspects of the 2010 FIFA World Cup went smoothly in Sedibeng.

Two things stand out for me: firstly, the way in which the local municipalities of Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal, together with the District Municipality of Sedibeng, worked together in a streamlined, smart and organised way and secondly, the way in which the different spheres of government from national through to local organised their operations to ensure that a streamlined set of services were delivered. This coordinated effort ensured that our people and our visitors could enjoy the tournament safely and in the true spirit of the event.

That we hosted the Switzerland and Ivory Coast teams in our District, while building relations and cementing relations with these two countries, shows that our facilities and offerings are in line with international standards. It also shows that our people went the extra mile to ensure these special visitors were looked after.

Last but not least, it is the people of Sedibeng that really made the FIFA 2010 World Cup a real and happening event. People flocked to our public viewing areas, both the two primary areas, and the several different secondary public viewing areas, especially in the first part of the tournament.

Even though Bafana Bafana did not make it through to the final rounds of the World Cup, the excitement continued right through until the final game. Furthermore, Bafana Bafana captain, Aaron Mokoena, who is one of us, born and bred in Boipatong, did us proud. Not only is he a superb player, but he is a capable leader and a formidable ambassador - for South Africa and for the sports development potential of this country.

To the people of Sedibeng and to the teams across all the councils, I thank you.



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