

**Speech Presented by Consul-General Tselane Mokuena at the
Press Conference promoting “Münchner Kinder Kicken Für
Südafrika – Cup of Children’s Hearts”, on 9 June 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Guten Morgen and vielen Dank for being here

CONFEDERATIONS CUP AND CHARITY CUP:

Ladies and Gentlemen, there really is no time like the present to visit South Africa. This very week, the FIFA confederations champions from across the world will continue to gather in South Africa for this Sunday’s kick-off of the FIFA Confederations’ Cup. This Cup will be played in four stadiums in Johannesburg, Pretoria/Tshwane, Bloemfontein/Mangaung and Rustenburg.

The Confederations Cup will be played for two weeks in four host cities. The World Cup will, of course, follow a year later at 10 stadia in nine cities.

To celebrate the kick-off of the Confederations Cup in Munich, we have organised, together with several partners, a small mini-soccer tournament that will take place at Marienhof, behind the Rathaus, on Saturday, 13 June 2009, from 6pm to 9pm. We are

also greatly honoured that this event also forms part of the City of Munich's 851st birthday celebrations this weekend. For this Saturday's Cup, Children have been grouped together to represent the countries playing in the Confederations Cup. The Brazilian, Spanish and South African teams will come from the Consulates-General of these countries represented in Munich. The remaining countries will be represented by children of the Bayerischer Fussball-Verband. Other sponsors for the event include McDonalds, Adidas, DB Schenker, SD Technologies, Ensinger Mineralwasser and the Therme Erding. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors and organisers for their assistance towards this project.

However, it will be more than a fun afternoon. The event will also raise funds for the Hearts to Hearts foundation. I will ask my friend, Dr Le Jeune to tell us more about that foundation later.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND FOOTBALL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thought I would just give some brief background on football in South Africa. The first recorded football match to be advertised in South Africa was played on 23 August 1862, between soldiers of the British garrison and

employees of the colonial administration. This game was played at Green Point in Cape Town, which now – nearly 150 years later – will be the site of a new stadium to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup semi-finals.

In 1882, the South African Football Association was founded, but only white men could join. Due to this racial policy, FIFA suspended South Africa 1966. It was the release of our future president Nelson Mandela in 1990 that allowed for people to consider allowing South Africa's return to international sports. At the FIFA Congress in Zurich in July 1992, South Africa's membership was restored. We made our FIFA World Cup debut in October 1992, and I will admit we struggled quite a lot there (Nigeria hammered us 4-0 at the National stadium in Surelere, Lagos). However, within four years, Bafana Bafana - as our national team is known - had become African champions in 1996, and had qualified for the FIFA World Cup in France.

South African football is now riding the crest of a wave since the country's designation as the host of the 2010 World Cup. Last year, our Premier Soccer League (PSL) signed a television deal worth R1.6-billion and a new title sponsor paid some R500-million for the privilege of aligning their products with the game.

Safa is the controlling body of the game in South Africa, with full membership of FIFA, and the regional organisations, the Confederation of African Football and the Council of South African Football Associations.

The massive interest in football ahead of the World Cup has already seen a lot of funds invested into the professional game in the country. Most leading South African clubs now also run academies, meaning there is better and more formal training for the country's up and coming young talent. It is expected that the World Cup will prove a further stimulus for a sport which already has a massive profile at home.

2010 READINESS AND PREPARATIONS

Ladies and Gentlemen, I also want to take this opportunity to emphasise how we view the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Yes, the event will be watched from all over the world, but we view it as much more than that. The legacy of hosting this World Cup will stretch well beyond the month during which the tournament is held. To ensure the World Cup goes as smoothly as possible, we have invested billions in infrastructure programmes such as

improved stadia, telecommunications, and security – and I can gladly tell you more about these during question and answer time. Like Munich did for the 1972 Olympics, South Africa will also launch its first integrated rapid rail and bus transportation system in time for the World Cup.

But perhaps the biggest legacy cannot be measured. It is sad that Africa has never hosted an Olympic Game, but hosting a FIFA World Cup may change people's perceptions of Africa and of South Africa. It will show the world that Africa's potential is far from exhausted.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I could also mention that South Africa has recently hosted several large events in the past, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, World Conference Against Racism, the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, and also the Rugby and Cricket World Cups - and these have all gone smoothly. This experience, the years of preparation we have had, and the multi-billion dollar infrastructure investment programmes we have put in place, make us very confident that we will put on a fun, memorable, safe, incredible, world-class, but distinctly African event – it will be a party on a scale the world has never seen before.

SA-MUNICH

South Africa has found many partners in the quest to put on a perfect World Cup. Germany, as the previous host, has – of course – proven to be one the most important and dedicated partners and has shown a great willingness to share its experiences learned during preparations for the FIFA 2006 World Cup. German officials - at all levels of government – have been very open to sharing information they have learned as the previous host of the FIFA World Cup.

Just one example – which I'll mention because it's so close to home here – is the many trips made by officials from the City of Munich to 2010 Host Cities. Their trips to South Africa have undoubtedly provided many beneficial proposals for South African Host Cities.

COME TO SA:

As a destination, South Africa is truly amazing. We are never just one thing at any one time. From our people, to our landscapes, to our abundant wildlife we have so much to inspire and enthrall. We can show you deserts and lush forests, the most incredible beaches

you've ever seen, world-class cities, and vibrant nightlife. We can also show you a diverse population of 48 million people, from many ethnic groups, speaking 11 official languages, and working together to overcome our difficult past. We also – and this may be good news for Germans – have an incredible climate (with over 300 days of sunshine per year in some parts). We have 9 million visitors per year. Yet, this is not enough. I am telling you all of this, Ladies and Gentlemen, because we are so proud of our country that we want the whole world to visit us. And not just during the World Cup! The time is now! Go to South Africa!

CONCLUSION/THANK YOU

Ladies and Gentlemen, in conclusion, I would like to thank <the representative from the City of Munich>, my colleagues from the Consular Corps, and Dr Le Jeune for being up here with me. Please also accept my sincere gratitude to all of you for being here today.

Have a good day, and we hope to see you at Marienhof on Saturday!