

**Speech delivered by Consul-General Tselane Mokuena at a
Press Conference with Lord Mayor Ude of the City of
Munich, 26 March 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,
Guten Morgen, and Vielen Dank for being here.

Firstly, Lord Mayor Ude, please accept my gratitude for hosting me here this morning.

PLAN A, B AND C IS SOUTH AFRICA:

Ladies and Gentlemen, since May 2004, when South Africa won the honour of being the first African country to host a FIFA World Cup, excitement at home has been growing. Yes, there have been those who tried to tell us that we would never be able to host such a spectacular event by 2010, but they were quickly silenced with the words of FIFA President, Sepp Blatter, when he said <and I quote> “Plan A is South Africa, Plan B is South Africa and Plan C is South Africa.” <end quote>

FORMATIONS OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR 2010:

Since that announcement in May 2004, we have come a long way. And now, on the eve of June's FIFA Confederations' Cup, and with just over a year to kick-off for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we need to take time to catch our breath and reflect on the many paths we have travelled to get to this point.

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. In this regard, we would like to thank the Lord Mayor, the City of Munich, InWent, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), and all other German partners for their continued efforts.

As the South African Consul-General based here in Munich, I have been very impressed by the depth of knowledge and the levels of dedication officials of the City of Munich have shown. As the Lord Mayor has indicated, their trips to South Africa have undoubtedly provided many beneficial proposals for South African Host Cities.

SA PREPARATIONS:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the preparations made by South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

During the early stages of preparations, many critics argued that our stadia would never be ready on time. We are therefore pleased to inform you that 9 of the 10 stadia will be ready by December 2009, with the 10th stadium to be completed in February 2010 – months before the June 2010 kick-off. In fact, 4 of these stadia will be used during this year's Confederations Cup.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to cover a more sombre topic simply because I have been asked about it in many conversations here in Germany. A simple analysis of the statistics show that – for the last seven years – *crime in South Africa has been decreasing*. Crime is decreasing, and police investigation is improving as more cases are making it to court. So the situation is improving. This is not to say that we don't

recognise the challenge of crime in South Africa, but our government and citizens are fully behind all efforts to fight crime. And these efforts are working. It is also important for potential visitors to South Africa to understand the history and nature of crime in South Africa. Tourists tend to operate in secure environments, outside of crime “hotspots”. If you doubt this, feel free to ask your fellow Germans: in the last four years, we have had 1 million Germans visit South Africa. Of these, 40% have been to South Africa more than once.

The Government would like to assure the thousands of fans who will be coming to watch the 2010 World Cup that they will be safe in South Africa. To prepare for this, we have worked closely with international agencies to gather intelligence and there will be a focus on border security. Police are to divide the host cities into sections, with teams patrolling sections and focusing on FIFA headquarters, hotels, other accommodation establishments, the stadia, fan parks, restaurants and tourist venues. There will also be state-of-the-art information and communication military technology will be used as well as a fleet of nearly 40 helicopters. The South African Police Service has embarked on a massive recruitment drive to increase

general police numbers by 55 000 to over 190 000. The number of police reservists will also double before the FIFA World Cup, from 45 000 members to 100 000. So, by 2010 South Africa will have a significantly larger and well-trained police service. We will also have dedicated World Cup police stations within close proximity to each of the stadiums, as well as dedicated crime-investigation teams and special courts to investigate and deal with all event-related crimes. A 24-hour multilingual hotline will also assist visitors requiring police or medical services. These are just some of the plans and, really, I can tell you more. But perhaps I should also mention that we have recently hosted several large events in the past, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, and also the Rugby and Cricket World Cups - and these have all gone smoothly.

TICKET SALES:

It seems that years of preparations are bearing fruit. Since the 743 000 tickets went on sale at the end of February, the Local Organising Committee said on Wednesday that 800 000 applications for tickets have been received to date. FIFA also reported last week: that 28 of the 64 matches are already sold

out. With this in mind, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would strongly recommend that Germans start applying for their tickets now. At present, the US and the UK are in the lead. I wonder if this is because Germans are not sure their team will qualify!

KE NAKO:

Ladies and Gentlemen, since arriving in Munich in October last year, I have been greeted with warmth and friendship by the citizens of Munich and Bavaria. The citizens of Munich seem to have taken the slogan for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, “*A Time To Make Friends*”, to heart. Our slogan for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is “*Ke Nako – It’s Time*”. It’s time for Africa and South Africa to have the honour of hosting this World Cup. It’s time for Africa to show the world the best Football World Cup the world has ever seen!

I thank you.