

SPEECH BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME EMMA TLADI ON THE OCCASION OF THE VODACOM-MATJHABENG CORPORATE GALA DINNER ON SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2006, WELKOM

Programme Director
Management of Vodacom
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored for being presented with the opportunity to address you on this occasion of the Vodacom–Matjhabeng Corporate Games.

I am certain that all of us today derived pleasure from the soccer games that were held today. The idea was not only to compete but this was meant also to be a platform for social interaction and enjoyment. I believe we can all attest to the fact that all the participants in today's event benefited in various ways and indeed it was a day well spent.

I wish to express my sincere word of gratitude to the sponsors of the event, Vodacom, without which today's games could not have taken place. My sincere appreciation goes to your management who was generous to give this offer in terms of the sponsorship, and also invested resources and time in ensuring that the event is the wonderful success that it was.

The partnership that was demonstrated through these games between Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Vodacom and other participants should be harnessed and nurtured, so that there is continuity and frequent engagement amongst ourselves.

There has always been an outcry among the broader public that the private sector is not coming to the party in terms of investing in communities and ensuring that their welfare and well being is catered for. But the gesture by Vodacom today demonstrates clearly that as a nation we are gradually making headway, as some institutions in the private sector acknowledge that their have a social responsibility to contribute to our communities.

At this point I wish to appeal to all of us gathered here to give our sponsors a thunderous applause for their efforts in ensuring that these games became the wonderful success that they were.

I hope in future the management of Vodacom will display a similar generosity when the municipality has organized events similar to this one.

I wish to congratulate all the members of the teams that participated in these games today, for having sacrificed your precious weekend and made it a point that you involve yourselves in fruitful activity.

To the teams that were defeated in the early rounds of the competition I wish to say that you should not despair, but just make sure that you put more effort in your training sessions.

To the team that received the cup and the participants who received medals my message is that keep up the good work and always remember that the sky is the limit.

It is important for all young people to continuously engage in sporting activities, so as to keep healthy and also amass the new opportunities that abound in sports since the advent of our democracy in 1994.

Our country is famous throughout the world as one of the famous sporting nations, and it is events such as the one we had today, that will enhance our capacity to become the greatest sporting nation.

Our country has been granted the right to host the 2010 World Cup Final, and I am convinced that the skills that were displayed during this tournament will open avenues for some of you to be participants in this great world soccer tournament.

We should always remember as young people that the best form of entertainment is partaking in sport. Participation in sport has a lot of positive spin offs as it saves you from engaging in social ills like drugs, alcohol and crime.

On this note I once more wish to thank our sponsors, and everyone who participated in these games including those who acted as spectators, and hope that sports events will now become a permanent feature of the Matjhabeng Local Municipality.

Thank you
CLLR EMMA TLADI
Acting Executive Mayor