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## **POLICE ARE READY TO PROTECT: FROM ORDINARY Ps TO VVIPs**

*International police are here. Systems and resources are functional. It is here!*

### **MEDIA STATEMENT – For immediate release**

#### **CAPE TOWN – 03 June 2010.**

With a few days to go to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, police leadership supported by safety and security MECs have reiterated that provinces are ready to secure all the citizens and visitors.

The Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa, accompanied by General Bheki Cele together with various MECs responsible for safety and security met in Cape Town today. Key on the agenda was the assessment of the safety and security readiness for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

“Police have been preparing for 2010 FIFA World Cup™ since 2004 by adopting a working-together approach. That collective approach has helped in better planning, drawing lessons from previous hosts and generally re-skilling of our members. Previous experiences in hosting major events have also stood us in good stead during this planning phase. Now we are ready to put the plan into action.”

The preparations have helped in identifying certain discrepancies which may have existed; such as vetting of security companies, hotels or stadia which have been effectively addressed. “Police will not be influenced by any political stature or one’s economic stance in society, but act on anyone who is found on the wrong side of the law. Taking into account the sophisticated nature of crime in the world today, we are confident that the resources we have invested in, will definitely help our police going forward.”

General Cele provided a comprehensive update on the security preparations, particularly since the launch of the National Joint Operational Centre (NATJOC) last week. “We are ready for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Our police, supported by the international counterparts who are already in the country, are feeling it. We have also activated the International Police Committee, which closely works with NATJOINTS for the overall security management. If one looks at this operational centre, it indeed reflects a ‘united nations’.

The General once again reiterated that there is no plan to carry out any threats on the tournament. “We are continuously engaging with the intelligence teams of all the teams and bilateral co-operation enabled us to plan ahead. We have a 24-hour hotline with 19 other agencies, including Interpol. We also have full access to Interpol database if we have any international issue we may want to confirm.”





He further emphasized that the deployment or focus of security agencies towards the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, will not hamper normal policing as contingency plans from a personnel perspective, intensified operations in and around non-hosting cities will continue unhindered.

Minister Mthethwa further urged all visitors to familiarize themselves and comply with the laws of this country because there will be no favours or compromise on any criminality. “We have an obligation and we will ensure we protect all the people, from the ordinary people who will be at homes, fan parks, stadiums to the very, very important people (VVIPs).”

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**Issued by the Ministry of Police.**

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