

Day by day we are getting closer. The world Cup has arrived, none among South African still doubt that our country will successfully host this prestigious, international soccer competition.

Not only have our stadiums been built to world-class standards, but also our infrastructure, which includes our roads, is undergoing a massive facelift - a legacy that will remain beyond 2010. Even those who doubted us are now convinced that we are made it!!!

The hosting of the 100 days countdown and the subsequent 50 days countdown proved that our people are ready to welcome magnitude of people who are descending to our land, and indeed we will make this world cup an ever exciting one that the people of the world have seen. .

In its support for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal recently launched a successful 'ANC SUPPORTS 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN'. The campaign includes forming fan clubs to support the countries that will have their base camps in the province and those that are going to play their first games in the Moses Mabhida stadium. Another element of the campaign is to ensure that people wherever they are in the province feels the vibe and mood of the world cup through fan parks entertainment events.

The launch, which took place at the Reunion Park, was attended by the ANC leadership led by the Provincial Chairperson Cde Zweli and the Minister of Sport Cde Makhenkesi Stofile.

In his opening remarks ANC KZN Chairperson Cde Zweli Mkhize said: "As the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal, we are proud to launch this programme which will see these teams that will be based here getting the necessary support. It is important that we make sure that these teams feel welcome in our province. Let us all embrace them and make sure that they feel our warmth," said Mkhize.

The African National Congress views the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup as an opportunity for South Africa as a country to live a lasting legacy for other generations to come. This sentiment was also anchored by Minister of Sport Cde Makhenkesi Stofile.

"This is an important opportunity to show the world that South Africa is a warm country and prove to those who were skeptical that we can host successful international events. I am proud of this initiative by the ANC KZN to support these teams that will be based here. I am quite positive that other provinces are going to adopt the same spirit," said Stofile.

This rare opportunity bestowed on African soil by soccer governing body FIFA is not only for the benefit of South Africa alone, but also benefits other African countries who continue to be our partners in many progressive developments. Ours as the ANC is to support the Local Organizing Committee and government in undertaking this huge task of hosting this prestigious event.

As the ANC, we share the same views expressed by ANC Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe “that garnering the spirit of Ubuntu in welcoming foreign visitors to South Africa is crucial. Let us all make their trip to South Africa the most memorable ever undertaken in the African soil.”

The multitudes of foreign visitors set to descend on our country will bring the much-needed revenue to boost the local tourism and hospitality industries. Therefore their first visit should make them come back again.

The ANC is encouraged by the results of the African Response latest survey showing that a record 85% of South Africans believe that the country will be ready for the World Cup when the first ball is kicked off on June 11.

We join President Jacob Zuma’s sentiment that we must also be hopeful of our National Team, Bafana Bafana as they are going to surprise many people in this competition. Ours is to provide Bafana Bafana with the marvelous support to make them proud and face their opponents with vigour. We will succeed Africa Ke nako!!