

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE HONOURABLE KWAZULU NATAL PREMIER, MR ES
MCHUNU DURING THE UNDER 19 INTERNATIONAL SOCCER GAMES DINNER AT
MOSES MABHIDA**

Programme Director

Acting DG, Mr. Brooks

EThekweni Mayor, Cllr James Nxumalo

MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Mrs. N. Sibhidla-Saphetha

MEC's and MPL's present

SAFA President, Dr. Danny Jordaan

Distinguished Guests

On behalf of the Provincial Government of KwaZulu Natal and its people, I am pleased to welcome all the participants at this very important Under 19 International Soccer Tournament. It is indeed, a moment for all of us to enjoy and make this soccer International Tournament a major success.

Our get together here tonight, marks an important step of this tournament. As KwaZulu-Natal, we are hosting this most prestigious tournament of the beautiful game of football on behalf of our country, South Africa. I would like to thank the organizers for choosing our province. Soccer is the game that unites people and brings countries and continents

together. It is therefore important for our government to support the sport of the people, which opens up new opportunities and enable our sportsman and women to make new friends. Hosting of this Under 19 International Soccer Tournament in KwaZulu Natal, reflects not only the confidence you have in our Government and the Province, but the confidence you have on our soccer controlling body structures and the resilience of our infrastructure. We are confident that you will not be disappointed. All of us from Government, including local and provincial are here to reassure you that we are together in this journey of developing our football, thus opening up a window of opportunity for our children.

I am certain that each and every one of us will do the right things and spare no effort to ensure that everything necessary for a truly successful Under 19 International Soccer Tournament is done on time. I can say with confidence that all of us will win this tournament, not just the players and teams that will compete – provided that we talk the same language of confidence in ourselves and our ability to provide world-class entertainment to the people of KwaZulu-Natal and all those who will follow the games on television. After all, the game of football is not only a beautiful game, but a game of suspense and everlasting memories.

To discover human fulfilment embedded in KwaZulu-Natal reality, Under 19 International Soccer Tournament and its sponsors should take up our invitation to explore today and indeed, beyond this tournament the greatest message of indestructible human hope that thrives among the people of KwaZulu-Natal, despite their everyday challenges, including poverty.

Every day, as Africans we speak of the need to respect the dignity of all human beings and embrace the universal values of Ubuntu, of compassion and human solidarity. I must presume that we speak as we do, of the vital importance of the sustenance of the values of Ubuntu because the experience of human savagery, directed against us, is deeply embedded in our collective memory.

I wish all the participants much success in the tournament.

Welcome to the beautiful province of KwaZulu-Natal and to our magnificent shores where football is indeed an enduring passion.

I thank you