

**STATEMENT BY HELEN ZILLE  
MAYOR OF CAPE TOWN**

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEN POINT STADIUM CONSTRUCTION SITE**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2008 - 13H00**

Exactly one year ago the contractor for our World Cup 2010 Stadium moved onto site in Green Point and the excavators started digging.

Now this project is one third complete and on schedule.

At the end of October 2009, we will hand this stadium over to FIFA for inspection, and on 14 December 2009 this stadium is scheduled to be completed.

In just over 800 days soccer fans from across the world will either come to Cape Town or see us on their television screens.

We had to go through various tough approval processes for the stadium. These were met with criticism, opposition, appeals and legal action.

If these processes went wrong, we would not be here today. We would not be a World Cup Host City.

The first challenge we encountered was that the City had signed a contract to build a multi-billion rand stadium without a proper business plan in place.

We had to execute this plan as a matter of urgency and we took a lot of flack along the way for asking difficult questions. We also had to conduct a study to identify the most feasible site for the stadium within various constraints, including time, budget and viability. I am glad we asked those questions up front. It helped us to avoid serious financial risks further down the line.

The first tenders were still R1 billion over budget. We had to re-work the design while still meeting the requirements of FIFA and the Provincial Minister's environmental Record of Decision.

We lost six and a half days through a labour dispute. Winter rains and wind took their toll in production time. We regained that lost time and we are now on course.

Many committed people worked tirelessly to overcome these obstacles. We ran processes in parallel. We took the problems head on. This is how all service delivery should work.

We are currently in the process of selling the naming rights of the stadium and finding a long-term operator after 2010. We want to award those contracts by the middle of the year.

I am most grateful to the National Government, in particular ministers Manuel and Moleketi and Mr Malcolm Simpson for their major financial contribution to the stadium. I would also like to thank Premier Rasool for the Provincial Government's contribution.

The naming rights, cost saving engineering and an advance on ticket income sales will all help manage the costs of the project.

Today is a milestone in the stadium project and our preparations for 2010. Upgrades to our roads and transport infrastructure are also underway.

I would like to thank our joint venture construction companies, Murray & Roberts and WBHO and the project director, Mr Andrew Fanton and his team for building the stadium so diligently.

To our professional team led by Mr Bev Mitchell, thank you for your watchful eye and managing the project for us.

To Mr Mike Marsden who heads up the City's 2010 team, Mr Dave Hugo, the Technical Director for this project, the 2010 team supported by colleagues in the Administration of the City, I express my heartfelt gratitude – they have proven themselves to be a world class team.

To my colleague, Councillor Ian Neilson, our Mayoral Committee member and chairperson of the Mayco 2010 Sub Committee and the members of that committee, thank you very much for your leadership and oversight.

To Dr Danny Jordaan and the Local Organising Committee, thank you for your solid support and encouragement.

There will be more challenges and much hard work ahead.

But to all the critics and cynics who thought Cape Town could not do it, the evidence that they are wrong is here for them to see for themselves.

I hope that this stadium will be a symbol to show that South Africa can get it right.

We now turn to the people here today who have made this possible: the more than 2 000 workers who are building the stadium.

I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work under often dangerous conditions.

The City wants to show its gratitude by sponsoring a traditional site braai for all of the workers on site, which will be scheduled between shifts.

I hope that they will enjoy this token of our appreciation, and I would like to wish them strength for the challenging year that lies ahead.

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