

## **Mayor Plato welcomes Parliamentarians and officially opens Green Point Park**

Speech by the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Dan Plato, at a cocktail reception held in the Green Point Park on Wednesday 09 February 2011 to welcome members of the National Assembly, the National Council of Provinces and the diplomatic community to Cape Town for the President's State of the Nation Address.

Ministers of Cabinet

Your Excellencies

Members of the Executive Council of the Province of the Western Cape

The Speaker of the Provincial Legislature of the Western Cape, Sheikh Shahied Esau

Members of the Consular Corps

Members of Parliament and the Provincial Legislature of the Western Cape

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Councillors

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here in Cape Town – in the cradle of Table Mountain, with Cape Town Stadium next to us and with Robben Island within sight. During a visit to the stadium President Jacob Zuma described it as Cape Town's latest landmark.

This time last year many of you would have been gathered inside the Cape Town Stadium right next to us. We were in count-down mode for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. We showed you our preparations, our readiness and commitment and we all felt a sense of pride and anticipation.

We were blessed with good winter weather. There was no significant crime or incidents. We had 507 000 people in the stadium, 580 000 on the Fan Walk from here to the central city, 560 000 on the Fan Fest at the Grand Parade and 209 000 at the fan jols in Khayelitsha, Swartklip, Bellville and Athlone.

We talked much about the legacy of the World Cup. Where we are gathered tonight is a legacy. We are formally opening this park tonight. It belongs to all Capetonians and we will have a celebration with our residents here.

We gained R13 billion's worth of new and upgraded infrastructure – transport, facilities and public spaces.

One of our greatest legacy benefits that was introduced during the World Cup is the MyCiTi transport network. Good transport is pivotal to the development of a city and we are certain that the IRT project will revolutionise access to safe public transport in Cape Town. I encourage all MPs who make frequent trips between the Cape Town airport and the CBD to make use of this efficient service – you were all presented with a MyCiTi pass so that you can experience 1st class transport for yourself.

Cape Town realises that we were, are and always will be part of team South Africa. I would like to thank the President of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma, the Cabinet, the National Government, Premier Helen Zille, the Provincial Cabinet and Government for all of their financial and numerous other forms of support. We worked together closely to overcome the challenges to solve difficulties and to achieve success.

It was a proud and defining moment for all our people. We all experienced something very special that comes only once in a lifetime.

The diplomatic corps worked hard to bring tourists, supporters, trade delegations and other specialists to South Africa in the run-up to and during the World Cup. They believed in us despite criticism, and doubts about security, transport and readiness. We thank you for your support. Business leaders did us proud with their service levels and offering of goods and experiences to visitors from across the globe. Many, many are now unpaid ambassadors.

I would like to say to all our guests that we feel very special that you are with us here tonight. Together we made the World Cup a resounding success – for Cape Town, South Africa and for Africa.

As a local government our duty is to deliver basics services to our 3,7 million residents. As we share our successes, we must also share our challenges. We must improve the lot of the poorest of the poor. While we will do our duty and run this metro as well as we can the obstacles we sometimes face require a collective effort. We would like to build on the partnership of the three spheres of government, business and civil society. We appeal to you to use not only your resources, but your will, expertise and influence to make life better, to build houses, to improve schools and medical care and create jobs for our people.

Tonight we celebrate this park, the amazing achievements of our country, its potential. We also acknowledge its challenges. We commit to and ask you to work with us and support us to continue creating a better South Africa. We owe it to all those who are not here tonight.

I thank you.