

## **SPPECH BY DAN PLATO**

### **Philippi Quality Public Space**

**7 AUGUST 2009**

Good day (INSERT PROTOCOL)

Clean and safe public spaces are vitally important to the development of our communities. It is in these areas where our children learn teamwork and the value of a strong communal foundation.

The project was initially conceptualised as part of an attempt linking the 2010 Soccer World Cup to local improvement initiatives of equal importance however there was a need to extend the existing City programme of public space provision. Great cities are typified by good public spaces and facilities, especially for the poor and underprivileged.

The energy associated with the 2010 Soccer World Cup offers an enormous opportunity to accelerate the delivery of quality public spaces that has traditionally been provided through the Dignified Public Places programme of the Urban Design branch. These spaces have the potential to become the 'public rooms' of the city; places where people can congregate, celebrate, relax or just go about their daily activities in a dignified context. The focus of this specific programme was the creation of a lasting legacy by establishing neighborhood level public places.

Although this programme was initially related to the World Cup initiative, the main emphasis is on the legacy aspect of spaces that provide benefits to the broader community in the long run. These spaces are multi-functional in nature and offer scope for new community events to consolidate the existing social calendar of events. In this way a formal public space is connected with ordinary day-to-day activities as well as with periodic or special events that contributes to the collective identity of place.

The intention is to complete one space in each Sub-council by 2010. The completed spaces will allow a variety of special events and functions to take place. Such events should be initiated and owned by civic organisations under the auspices of the Sub-council and could include: mini-soccer tournaments where associated with sport fields; informal trade markets and food courts; funfair activities; entertainment provided by local artists. General functions of public space include activities such as the gathering of people; market exchange; memorial services; religious, cultural, sport, and other festivities - just as the Grand Parade in Cape Town and other prominent public spaces in cities all over the world have provided for centuries.

I implore you as a community to look after this space, claim as your own and be proud of your community. It is only through the collective cooperation of the whole community that this space will be a legacy for your children's children.

I thank you.