

**SPEECH FOR THE SCSA ZONE VI WELCOMING BANQUETTE
AT THE TLOKWE MUNICIPALITY : EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

May 28, 2008

- **Programme Director**
- **Honourable Deputy Minister Mr. Gert C. Oosthuizen MP**
- Mr Rangarirai Dzimba – General Manager of SCSA Zone VI
- Mr Hugo Olivier – CEO Zone VI Games
- Professor Anette Combrink – NWU Campus Rector
- Prof Hendre Reyneke – Dean of Students NWU
- Dr Harol Adams – Chief Medical Officer

It is a great privilege to have the honour of welcoming you all to our city this evening. We extend a warm hand of welcome and bid you to enjoy the hospitality of our city as we sit and get down to the business of organizing the Zone VI games due to start in September.

Programme Director it does not escape anybody's notice that as we meet here tonight our country has for the last few days been dominated by headlines on xenophobic attacks against foreign national. I do not wish to say much in this regard for now accept to say that the national outcry and revulsion against these barbaric acts as well as the emotional outpouring clearly indicate this is not what we all stand for as South Africans. It is un – African and the work of the criminal element cannot be ruled out.

However, we are certain that what we gathered about tonight and for the next two days might be a small but significant blow against the walls of xenophobia and hatred. It is doubtlessly another building block towards the unity of the community of particularly African nations that we all strive for.

As we all know, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa is a sports arm of the African Union that was once the Organization of African Unity. It was formed around the 1960s with the main aim of using sport to achieve peace, integration and unity in Africa i.e. sport as a vehicle of encouraging people to unite irrespective of colour, economic and, political status, class and gender.

Today, as the municipality of Tlokwe we are proud to also have a role to play in this noble objective of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, i.e. that of uniting the nations of Africa through sports. We feel honoured to be offered the opportunity of hosting the games for this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen I therefore welcome you and wish that we all together engage in fruitful preparatory meetings that will ensure that we deliver the memorable tournament in the history of the games come September – October 2008.

I Thank You All.