

WELCOME SPEECH OF HIS WORSHIP, THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOTHEO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, Cllr V. RANI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE HONORABLE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND, MR RUDOLF BAERFUSS ON 02 MARCH 2010.

The honorable Ambassador, Rudolf Baerfuss and honorable members of delegation,  
The honorable Speaker of Motheo District Council, Cllr R.Erasmus,  
The honorable Chief-Whip of Motheo District Council, Cllr P.Moeng,  
The honorable Members of the Mayoral Committee Present,  
The honorable Councillors Present,  
The Esteemed Acting Municipal Manager, Mr H.Boshof, and Senior Managers Present,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen: and all Protocol observed,

Master of Ceremonies,

We take this historic opportunity to express deep-felt words of gratitude to the honorable ambassador, Mr Rudolf Baerfuss, and honorable members of your delegation, for having found it possible within a busy schedule to make this courtesy visit to Motheo District Municipality.

Honorable Ambassador, we appreciate the good relations existing between your country and ours since 1998. We are pleased to note as South Africans, that bilateral relations continue to grow from strength to strength. The Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by Ministers Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and her counter-part Mrs Michellin Calmy-Rey consolidated these bilateral relations.

We are happily aware that Switzerland hosted the Euro-2008 Soccer Championship with Austria in 2008. And during that event Switzerland hosted officials from our government, 2010 Soccer World Cup Local Organising Committee and Host Cities. For this gesture and others, we remain indebted to the government and people of Switzerland.

On 26 October 2009, Her Worship, the Executive Mayor of Motheo District Municipality, and her delegation, visited the city of Lugano at the invitation of the President of the Scientific Committee of the Swiss Tourism Awards 2009, Mr Alessandro Strazzanti to participate in the Swiss Tourism Holiday Exhibitions and receive an award dedicated to Motheo District Municipality. The Executive Mayor and her delegation were further honored with an opportunity to make a courtesy visit to the Deputy-Mayor of the city of Lugano.

Mr Ambassador, the good relations existing between our two countries made it possible for her Worship, the Executive Mayor and members of her delegation to feel at home away from home.

Master of Ceremonies, we wish to extend a humble invitation to the honorable Ambassador and the people of Switzerland, to visit Mangaung, a 2010 World Cup Host City within our District Municipality. In line with the Mangaung 2010 theme which is “My Mangaung, My 2010”. We are honored to declare the honorable ambassador and honorable members of your delegation to be welcome to Motheo District Municipality

THANK YOU

Cllr V. RANI.

Motheo District Municipality