

Johannesburg Gives R790m for 2010

The executive mayor of Johannesburg, Amos Masondo, announced on Wednesday that R789,1m has been budgeted for by the city for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Of that amount, R580m will go towards the completion of South Africa's flagship stadium, Soccer City, a further R130m will be used to complete the upgrades at Ellis Park and R82m for one of the city's primary legacy projects.

Delivering the city's 2006 to 2008 Mid-Term Report on Wednesday, Masondo said further to this, Johannesburg would contribute R120m toward the construction and outfitting of the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC).

The state-of-the-art IBC, to be located in Johannesburg not far from the Soccer City Stadium, will be used by the world's media during the World Cup and contribute significantly to ongoing improvements in local telecommunication and broadcasting infrastructure.

"The main expenditure will be to rent and upgrade the required halls and facilities from the Expo Centre," he said.

The city is also investing in infrastructure upgrades in the vicinity of Nasrec, Soccer City and the IBC ahead of developing a mixed-use precinct that will include one of the city's biggest transport hubs, as well as commercial, retail and residential developments.

"Once completed, Nasrec will be one of the most accessible precincts in the region, providing economic opportunities for the surrounding communities," the mayor explained.

Part of the city's preparations for Africa's first ever Soccer World Cup, the city has embarked on an ambitious greening project. A total of 200,000 trees will be planted in the city by 2011.

To date some 90,000 trees have been planted in Johannesburg, in the southern suburbs in particular, and the implementation of codes of practice for green building will also be adhered to.

"The implantation of codes of practice for green building will be undertaken to encourage sustainable building practices."

The mayor said the city's legacy projects and its preparations for the World Cup would continue to receive the highest level of attention and resources.

"The stadiums are on schedule, and the transport, precinct upgrades and additional infrastructure associated with the event will see the necessary work required for absolute readiness," Masondo said.