

SA's new President pledges full support to 2010

South Africa's newly elected President Kgalema Motlanthe and ANC President Jacob Zuma last week, 26 September, personally reassured FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter of the South African government's full support for next year's FIFA Confederations Cup and the first FIFA World Cup on African soil, to be held from 11 June to 11 July 2010 in South Africa.

"We remain on course to host in 2010 the best FIFA World Cup ever - an African World Cup. We would like to assure Africa and the world that the deadlines set by FIFA will be met. South Africa's hosting of the World Cup is testimony to the achievements of our democracy," said the President of the Republic of South Africa to the FIFA President by telephone.

After congratulating Kgalema Motlanthe on his election, Blatter stated: "I want to thank Mr Motlanthe for taking the time today to personally inform me about the situation, as this underlines the importance of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to the South African government. I was pleased to hear from him that the 2010 FIFA World Cup is fully supported by all political and governmental authorities and that everything will be done to make 2010 an unforgettable success."

During the conversation Motlanthe informed the FIFA President of the composition of his new cabinet and also expressed his satisfaction with the infrastructural preparations. Blatter also reassured Motlanthe of FIFA's 100% support and assistance in the preparations as well as FIFA's full confidence and trust in South Africa's organisational capabilities.