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# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai hails South Africa, as the first World Cup on African soil kicks-off**

(OTTAWA, June 11, 2010) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“On behalf of the Parliament of Canada and all Canadians, I wish to extend our heartfelt best wishes to the people of South Africa as they prepare to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup - the very first on African soil. I am confident that South Africa will stage a world-class tournament. The World will again have a chance to see the vibrancy, growing self-confidence and optimism that is emerging on the continent of Africa, the continent where I was born.

Over the twenty years since Nelson Mandela’s release from prison, Canadians have watched with pride as South Africa has emerged to take an increasingly prominent place on the global stage. Hosting the world cup is yet another world class achievement by our great friend and ally.

Let us celebrate the friendship between our two countries and wish South Africa every success as it bring us the joy and excitement of the World Cup.”

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