



17 June 2010

## Does your attitude need a substitute?

Talk about resistance... when we sent the 'Words' issue out, the entire country was in a state of pre-World Cup euphoria. I am writing this the day after Bafana Bafana lost 3-0 to Uruguay following a very poor performance at Loftus Versfeld. It's pretty safe to say that the national mood has done a 180.

I was somewhat surprised the level of my disappointment when Bafana Bafana lost so thoroughly to Uruguay. I really did believe we could beat them despite the odds and I was still feeling dejected when I woke up this morning. So much so, that I hesitated before putting on my South African flag earrings which I'd resolved to wear for the duration of the World Cup. These earrings have been the focus of many positive comments in the last week and most of the ladies I've bumped into have asked me where I got them. But today when I went to the mall during my lunch break I realised how quickly the vibe has changed. 'How can you still support South Africa?' was the first comment that drifted past the little flag and into my ear canal. 'Please take those off before I serve you,' was another (I am 97% sure the man who said that was joking since he did serve me, albeit grudgingly).

It really got me thinking. Yes, we are all bitterly disappointed in the latest soccer result. But is our national pride so dependent on winning? I like to think that the united front South Africa has been presenting to the world is based on more than just 11 players. Surely is it based on what those players represent – our country and all its wonders and flaws. It's based on our people, our history and our diversity. It's based on ubuntu. Bafana Bafana should surely be an expression of that and not the cause.

In the 'Words' issue we were all challenged to speak positively about South Africa. Suddenly this is incredibly difficult again. I have no doubt that negativity and criticism have been the order of the day for most people and I'll admit that I've jumped on that band wagon at times as well. As someone said to me the other day when I commented on *United for Bafana*, 'South Africans can be so full of enthusiasm when they have hope, but they can be extraordinarily critical when that hope is not met'. This really is proving to be true, but let's not give in to it. I'm standing with Aaron Mokoena, when he said after last night's defeat 'We need to get that belief back'. I would like to add that we need that belief not just for our sports teams but also for our country. Let us continue to encourage and to be encouraged.

I am not saying that we all have to deny the facts and pretend that our boys gave a first-rate performance last night. They didn't play as well as they did against Mexico and an honest assessment of the game will not result in a glowing report. We know they are capable of more so it's natural to be frustrated. What I am saying is that we shouldn't dwell on it and should rather shift our focus back to all that we have achieved, on and off the field for this tournament. The World Cup is far from over and thousands of tourists from all over the world are still flocking to our beautiful land. Let's make sure that they still get a taste of that great South African 'gees'!

To wrap up, let's not forget that our boys still need to face France on Tuesday and they are going to need all of our support! Let's rally behind them like we've done before and show them that despite the odds and the rankings – we are still proudly South African!

♥ Lucy

*'Ayoba Mzansi'*

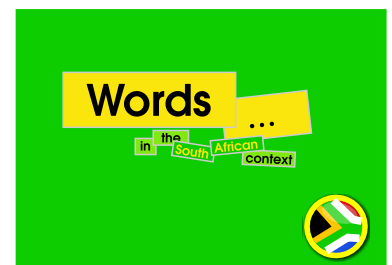
**"Lord, place a guard at my month, a sentry at the door of my lips, so that the words I speak, may be words of life and truth."**

Psalm 141:3

**"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."**

Ephesians 4:29

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