

**All eyes will be on Maseru when the Youth Development through Football (YDF) Africa tour stops over in Lesotho on its 15-day tour through seven African countries, after kicking off in the Rwandan capital Kigali on May 1.**

“Strong Youth, Strong Africa” is the message that will resonate throughout the YDF partner countries such as Lesotho, Rwanda, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique ahead of the first Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) 2010 World Cup in Africa. Kick4life Volunteer, Mr Curtis Gardner said in Lesotho, the event will be called The Maseru Street League: Changing Lives through Football, and will take place on May 9 at the Maseru Club. He said the power of the game will promote the unique and holistic approach of youth development through football and will address social and political priorities.

Mr Gardner said South African Banyana Banyana captain and current World Cup Ambassador Desiree Ellis will introduce the YDF in training curriculum for coaches, adding that she will also encourage and strengthen the social behaviour of children and the youths.

The “Strong Youth, Strong Africa” tour aims to create an attractive platform for YDF’s partners to showcase their achievements within the project to a broad audience and thereby increase their motivation and dedication for the time after the World Cup.

“As a token for this unity, each country has chosen a characteristic present, which will be passed on to the caravan’s subsequent partner country and the gift from Lesotho will be a Basotho blanket,” he noted.

YDF uses the popularity of football to promote youth development, especially of disadvantaged girls and boys.

YDF is an International programme, with head offices in South Africa and implemented in 10 African countries. The YDF project started in 2007 and will run until 2012.

Kick4life is a local NGO founded in 2005 that uses football and sport to encourage and empower youths with lifeskills and tools to fight the pandemic. LENA