

Kaizer Motaung
for the degree of Doctor of Social Science (*honoris causa*)

Kaizer Motaung, founder of the renowned Kaizer Chiefs Football Club and prolific footballer, has, throughout his life, made enormous contributions in international sport and to South African society. Having begun playing football at the age of sixteen, he has dedicated his life to developing and nurturing a dynamic soccer enterprise. Motaung's illustrious career gained him international recognition. His contributions, particularly as a player for Atlanta Chiefs, led to victory in the championship final at the North American Soccer League (NASL) in 1968. As a result of his success, Motaung was granted a major contract, which he sacrificed to follow his vision in creating a Football Club that would be one of the most celebrated in South Africa and beyond.

Nicknamed 'Amakhosi', Kaizer Chiefs played memorable matches in South Africa and in the continent, winning over ninety trophies and amassing over 16 million supporters. Motaung steered the club for five decades, demonstrating his leadership, entrepreneurial prowess and dedication. In those years, the club nurtured the careers of internationally celebrated soccer players such as Lucas Radebe, Neil Tovey, Marks Maponyane, Doctor Khumalo, Fani Madida, Siphiwe Tshabalala and Collins Mbesuma, among others. More than just a soccer club, Kaizer Chiefs is regarded as a 'movement' through which black supporters during and after apartheid could find dignity and a common identity. Motaung's accomplishments enabled what seemed impossible at a time when black South Africans had few opportunities to realise their potential. In the context of racial conflict, marches and mass arrests, the Kaizer Chiefs Football Club spread the message of "Love and Peace" through its slogan.

Motaung played a crucial role in the establishment of the South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) in 1996. In 2006 and 2010, he was a member of the South African FIFA World Cup Bid Committees that won the bid for South Africa to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup – an event which stimulated economic activity in South Africa, leading to the improvement of infrastructure in host cities. Subsequently, Motaung was appointed to the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. This was an historic accomplishment, given that it would be first time for an African country to host the World Cup. This was not the first time, however, that Motaung contributed at this level of international football. In 1982, he attended the FIFA World Cup in Spain as a member of the South African National Football Association (SANFA) delegation. Motaung continues to serve selflessly in football. He is currently on the South African Football Association (SAFA) National Executive Committee.

In 2013, Motaung was bestowed National Order of Ikhamanga Silver for Excellent Achievement in the Football Industry – one of the highest forms of government recognition in the country. Motaung's lifetime achievements embody the spirit of resilience, dedication and unity. His contributions have impacted positively in the lives of ordinary South Africans for whom Kaizer Chiefs symbolises hope, dignity and togetherness. His life's work remains influential not only in soccer but in the humanities in general, and makes him a worthy recipient of an honorary degree from UCT.