

Citation: Mr Kaizer Motaung

Kaizer Motaung was born on 16 October 1944 in Orlando East, Soweto. He loved soccer from an early age and proved to be very talented. He attended Orlando High School where he excelled in soccer. The young striker had impressive speed, excellent dribbling skills, and a powerful left foot. He was known to put in extra hours to improve his game on the dusty pitches in Soweto.

Motaung made his fulltime professional debut for Orlando Pirates Football Club at the age of 16. This made him the youngest footballer to play for the Buccaneers in the South African Soccer League. Soon the youngster won over even his fiercest critics and collected nicknames such as *Chincha Guluva* ('the man with the quick feet') and 'King Kaizer'.

Motaung was considered the best player in South Africa in the sixties. In 1968, he was recruited to participate in football trials in Zambia, after which he made his debut for Atlanta Chiefs. He was voted NASL Rookie of The Year. Yet Motaung chose not to return to the US, citing a "desire to contribute and do something back home". He returned to South Africa on 7 January 1970 to establish Kaizer Chiefs Football Club, now 55 years old.

He returned permanently in 1975 to continue playing for and run Kaizer Chiefs FC. However, he stopped playing a year later to focus on leading the Chiefs to become the dominant force in South African football that it is today, with around 14 million supporters nationwide.

Motaung has played an important role in South African soccer administration, having served in both National Soccer League (NSL) and South African Football Association (SAFA) executives. In 1982, he was part of a South African National Football Association (SANFA) delegation that travelled to the FIFA World Cup in Spain to convince the Confederation of African Football (CAF) executive and the FIFA Congress of that year to support the continued banning of apartheid South Africa from international sport.

In 1988, Motaung was part of a senior South African football delegation that met with the then still banned ANC in Lusaka. Here he contributed to events which helped ensure "the winds of change" finally came about in South Africa. Because of his participation, energy, guidance, and persistence, South African football became a tremendously powerful force for change and social upliftment.

In 1996, Motaung co-founded the South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) with Irvin Khoza, which elevated the profile and increased the investment of sponsors into South African professional soccer. Motaung still serves as a member of the PSL Board of Governors, manages Kaizer Chiefs, and serves on SAFA's executive committee. He also assisted South Africa's 2010 Soccer World Cup Bid Committee and was a member of the delegation to the FIFA head office in Zurich that won the bid. He was appointed as a member of the local organising committee for the 2010 event.

Motaung has developed young soccer talent and built a globally recognised brand. The success of Kaizer Chiefs FC is the result of hard work based on a vision of continual improvement and to do things better, and Motaung has built an institution at the Kaizer Chiefs Village in Naturena, Johannesburg.

Motaung has received various awards for his contribution to country-building, business, and the soccer fraternity:

- The South African President awarded him the national Order of Ikhamanga (Silver) for Excellent Achievement in the Football industry (2013)
- He was voted amongst the Top 100 Great South Africans (2004)
- He received the Entrepreneurship Leadership Award from the Henley Management College of SA (2004)
- He was bestowed with the Steve Tshwete Lifetime Achievement Award at the South African Sports Awards (2013)
- Motaung received the PSL Chairman's Award for his outstanding contribution to the development of football in South Africa (2012).

An excellent footballer, a successful businessperson and soccer administrator, a philanthropist, and a proud political activist. Kaizer Motaung has played his role in contributing greatly to the betterment of South African society and in recognition of his contribution to the development of soccer through the establishment and building of a soccer institution, against all odds, and his contributions towards the development of disadvantaged youth. It is therefore befitting that the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, bestows an Honorary Doctorate degree on Kaizer Motaung.