

SPEECH BY HOURABLE MEC NAKEDI KEKANA ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF THE SPONSORSHIP BY FAW TRUCK MANUFACTURING COMPANY TO PHATSE JUSTICE PIITSO SOCCER SPORTS ANNUAL TOURNAMENT AT MASEMOLA TRIBAL OFFICES.

Kgosigadi Makgahle Maboe Masemola

Mayor of Makhuthamaga local municipality: Cllr Minah Bahula

Ambassaodor Justice Piitso

FAW Truck Manufacturing company; Chief Executive Officer of FAW South Africa: Mr Li Yongjun

SABC Limpopo Regional Manager: Mr Joe Oupa Mamabolo

Chairperson of the South African Football Association Sekhukhune region (SAFA):Mr Mpaketsane Liver

Chief Director Sports and Recreation in our department: Mr Thomas Makgabo Sibushi Kgomo

Programme Director

Good day.

It is an honour to be here today as we mark a remarkable milestone.

We are not only delighted with the sponsorship that you will be receiving today Ambassador, we are more excited about what this will mean for young people here in the nearby communities, as the tournament rages closer.

Let me be quick to appreciate the efforts made by Ambassador Phatse Justice Pitso. We appreciate these kind of efforts that bring together our society, and more importantly, our young people who forever need our guidance. We take pride with such initiatives- and believe that they will better shape our future. We

thank your sponsors for seeing your vision in colour- and are today making it possible.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Sports is critical in our social cohesion, and plays a pivotal role in nation building, team spirit, working towards a common goal as a member of a team, and doing so selflessly.

I am hopeful that the young people here who are beneficiaries will not only have fun at the coming tournament, but also ensure that they bring about their best talents. I am told that different people of interest will be watching and maybe, just maybe, there could be a breakthrough.

Programme director, Ambassador Justice Piitso dedicated his life to the struggle of our country, and continues to do so even post the attainment of liberation. This tournament is testament to his unwavering commitment to the social cohesion. We continue to thank him.

Allow me to ask this distinguished gathering to ensure that in the immediate future, young girls playing soccer are benefiting from the initiative. I know that Sekhukhune has talent because just this weekend, we awarded Hilda Magaia with R100 000 as promised by my office. She was among the five Banyana-Banyana Limpopo based soccer stars who claimed victory at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations square off earlier this year. We also honoured Lebogang Ramalepe, Amogelang Motau, Noko Matlou and Nomvula Kgwale with the same offering.

These young ladies from our province had shown us that it is possible, all we need to do is to ensure that we lay the foundation for women soccer to be played in our rural settings, with the support of such beautiful initiatives from yourselves.

Programme director we are in the third week of observing the world renowned programme of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. As government, we continue to put efforts on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). It is gaining momentum through the implementation of programmes by both government and civil society, and I believe as well, that while you teach these young ones those ***shibobos and tsamayas***, you will remind them that the girl child is also a human

being just like them. Remind all those participating one way or another that it is not okay to kill a woman just because she is a woman.

According to the United Nations, More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. Please amplify these messages at your events.

As I conclude, I call upon yourselves to now look at how best to grow this brand, and in the process ensure that you bring other sporting codes and most importantly, include persons with disabilities.

As Limpopo, we successfully played host to the National Special Olympics games. Our children with disabilities are also our children, and we should pull out all the stops to support them.

I thank you.