



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

REMARKS BY MEC LERULE RAMAKHANYA AT HONORARY GALA DINNER: UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Vhembe District Executive Mayor: Cllr. Nenguda Dowelani
Collins Chabane Mayor, Cllr Shadrack Maluleke
Musina Local Municipality Mayor: Cllr Nkhanedzeni Godfrey Mawela
Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda; Dr Bernard Nthambeleni
Old Mutual Provincial Manager- Mr. Thuso Maja
Old Mutual Vhembe Area Manager- Ntakadzeni Sibuda

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is truly an honour to be here amongst stars tonight.

It is no shock that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture had decided to honour these exceptional individuals, as they are our living treasures. As a province, we honour these excellent artists, we applaud them, and we feel proud that they are one of our own. We as Limpopo citizens must keep on applauding persons like our finest guests tonight, so that they also understand the appreciation we have for them and the work they do.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Limpopo has always been known to have the best gems as far as music has been consent. It is for that reason that stars such as Makhadzi wa vho rine; Pastor Lunghi Ndhala; and Musa Keys; deserve the recognition that which we are giving them today. They have gone against the best among them in their respective genres, and they came up at the top. Their passion and hard work had paid off and we still say that we are proud of them.

I call them to action however, that they should understand that the need to do music development in and around their home townships and villages is dire and necessary, so that young ones could learn from them.

Music is one of the biggest sectors within the broader creative industries. It is also an important contributor to nation building and social cohesion. Through your music, our dear artists, we have found that there is social solidarity. Music is one of the key cultural industries identified in the Cultural Industrial Growth Strategy Report of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and as such, government has committed itself to harnessing its potential. In addition to the cultural value that the music of our stars here tonight bring, music plays an important economic role through gatherings, generating significant copyright revenue for upcoming artists as well. This is a road, ladies and gentlemen, we as government are always looking to walk on.

In this industry, the department has solid foundations from which to build, and that foundation has now been laid bare by you, our outstanding artist. I therefore urge you to help promote emotional synergy and social cohesion, and foster group-level cooperation and coordination, as you continue to allow your music to trivet over tribal lines.

Ladies and gentlemen

You will agree with me that the aforementioned stars may not have found it to be possible to ply their trade if it weren't for legends such as Veteran musician Dr. Irene Mawela. The President was not mistaken last month when he awarded her with a National Order in respect of the of the musical journey she embarked on 66 years ago. This highest honour in the land is bestowed on deserving recipients in various categories for individuals, who have contributed towards the advancement of democracy and have made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans. She has been deemed as such, an extraordinary person! It is for that reason that we honour you today, Mama, and as a province, we will always be thankful for your contribution to the music industry, and the country as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen, someone who equally knows of recognition at the highest level in our country is Dr. Noria Mabasa. She has recently been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Johannesburg. Dr Mabasa is a world renowned potter and wood sculptor, as well as a recipient of the 2002 Silver category of the Order of the Baobab

bestowed to her by President Thabo Mbeki. She has also received several other national and international accolades and awards for her outstanding artistry and creativity.

We are proud that the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has invested in building her a craft studio in November of 2007. The Department's investment was necessitated by a combination of the need Dr. Mabasa had for a working space, as well as ensuring that she is provided with a vehicle for her to pass on her knowledge and skills. As such, the knowledge she has, young people should benefit from it, as they would then in turn, have the opportunity to pass it on further for the benefit of posterity.

As I conclude ladies and gentlemen, allow me to move to the main event of the night, as I ask the VC, our various mayors and the HOD to join me on stage as we honour our five stars tonight.