



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

REMARKS BY MEC KEKANA ON THE OCCASION OF KULUMA VUKANYI

Saturday, 04 March, 2023

Programme director

The House of Traditional Leaders

**Kgoši Malesela Dikgale, the Chairperson of the House of
Traditional Leaders.**

The Executive Mayor of Mopani, Pule Shai

**The Mayor of the host municipality, Ba-Phalaborwa, Cllr Merriam
Malatji.**

All Councillors present,

The Limpopo Tourism Agency

Members of the Media

Leaders of our parastatals

Ladies and gentlemen

Today is an important day of our calendar as we mark yet another Kuluma Vukanyi milestone. With our traditional leaders present here today, they can rest assured that events such as this look to preserve the traditional heritage practices, and we will walk well with you in this journey.

I have the honour of formally launching this year's first fruit event.

We remain proud to partner with House of Traditional Leaders and Healers in ensuring that we revive the traditional ways of brewing and drinking marula beverage (vukanyi/morula) and to sustain the indigenous knowledge systems involved that is diminishing.

I am encouraged that as we do our job in the preservation of the very tradition and heritage, we will be attracting tourists who have interest in cultural tourism. It is important because movements of persons for essentially cultural motivations such as study tours, performing arts

and cultural tours, visiting sites and monuments, traveling to study nature, folklore or art, and pilgrimages will one way or another, add value to our provincial economy.

It is in the progress of such travel and festivities, which we will experience in April at the Marula Festival, will we see a boost in the economy through the marula beer. But we should also ensure that we empower rural women by procuring the marula beer through their cooperatives for brewing and selling. It is an enterprise development programme that which we need to support holistically. It is as such that we need to ensure that we encourage our communities to conserve the Marula tree and exploit all business opportunities that could change livelihoods.

Speaking on livelihoods, let me agree with Minister Nathi Mthethwa when launching Human Rights Month yesterday, when he said that we cannot talk on Human Rights and not talk about the scourge of Gender Based Violence and Femicide. It is a pandemic we need to deal with. I call to action all Traditional leaders and all of us present here to ensure that women and children are protected.

Let me draw you to the first pillar of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF that talks on Accountability, Coordination and Leadership as signed by the President.

Bold leadership and strengthened accountability across government and society should be sought to respond to GBVF strategically, with clear messaging and adequate technical and financial resources;

The pillar further notes strengthened multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration across different tiers of government and sections of society based on relationships of trust that give effect to the pillars of the NSP.

It is as such, that all of us here have a responsibility to combat GBVF and all its roots so that we could live together in harmony.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kuluma-Vukanyi is a traditional and ancestral clarion call to bring people together. This propitious festival is all about enjoyment, entertainment, music and above all, the preservation of our heritage and respect to one another as a people.

Persons with disabilities are not and should not be left behind. Participation of disabled persons in the cultural life is a right, and we believe that our traditional leaders will ensure that in their societies, they should be able to include persons with disabilities in all of those activities, including this one we are engaged in today.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), countries need to ensure conditions in which disabled persons can present their creative, artistic and intellectual capacities in order to equally participate in cultural activities. Full equality and equal opportunities for disabled persons also imply their right to be fully integrated into society, as well as their participation in the cultural life.

Encouraging involvement of disabled persons relies on raising social awareness of the diversity and value of their cultural activities, as well as on encouraging complete independence in artistic and creative expression, but also ensuring support to all forms of cultural activity produced by disabled persons.

As I conclude, let the festivities begin, and may we see much needed economic activities that which will cascade down to the lady at the corner selling marula being prosperous, and the young lady looking to burst into the industry of selling marula beer succeed.

Ndzi tshikelela swinene eka vatshwa vaxisati vavantima lava hi vunyingi va pfumalaka mintirho.

I place my emphasis on ladies, as young black women in particular, remain outside of the employment structures. It is the sad truth, but working hand in hand together, we will be able to bring about economic opportunities.

The Marula Festival is coming in April and has already been proclaimed by the MEC responsible for LEDET, in conjunction with the Sport, Arts and Culture Department and the office of the Premier. The event will be a success, and it will be a success through you.

I thank you
Ndo Livhua
Nzhi khensile!
Kea leboga!