

# **MEC SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF THE MOGALAKWENA FOOTBALL FOR HOPE CENTRE**

**Programme Director  
Executive Mayor of Waterberg District, Cllr. Rossinah  
Mokgotjane,  
Mayor of Mogalakwena Municipality,  
Cllrs.  
South African Red Cross Society Representatives  
Special guests, Mr. Alastair Campbell  
Guests from the media industry  
Ladies and gentlemen  
All protocol observed**

It is a great honour to be part of the event of this magnitude – ‘The Opening of Mogalakwena Football for Hope Centre’. We would like to appreciate the initiative and allowing us to participate.

The opening of this center in Limpopo Province came at the perfect time when South Africa has joined the rest of the global community in celebrating International Women’s day, while on the other hand our country is experiencing a high rate of violence and crime against women and young people. Mogalakwena Football for Hope Centre Project will play a role in assisting in the fight against such crimes and unite communities through sport - football.

Programme Director,

We have to acknowledge the social ills affecting the young people within communities in the province, such as the alarming high rate of substance abuse, increasing number of teenage pregnancy, the spread of HIV/Aids, chronic culture of ill-discipline, disobedience amongst the youth, obesity, laziness and ignorance. The above mentioned youth challenges can be tackled in a more coherent, vigilant and sustainable manner of instilling the culture of sport amongst young people.

The use of drugs and other substances is very prevalent amongst our youth. This has been attributed to moral decay and the lack of recreational facilities. After school hours, our children do not have anything to do. As a result, they come up with other unconventional methods to while away time. They go to shebeens and indulge in drugs and unprotected sex. Teenage pregnancy and the spread of HIV/AIDS become inevitable.

I therefore call upon the community and the young people in the Mogalakwena municipal jurisdiction to take the centre very seriously, participate, and utilize the facility to the maximum, as it will assist in keeping young people out of the streets, it will also make young people to have focus in life, as the dictum goes that 'a child out of street is a child out of prison'.

Sport, especially football is a powerful nation-building tool, it instill the elements of discipline and focus in the lives of the youth. Sport should become a lifestyle to each and every young person within the community, as they are the leaders of tomorrow. They need sporting activities that are combined with social development so that they do not get bored, which will result in a healthy and united nation in future. Young people are very energetic but their energy needs to be driven, controlled and monitored.

Programme Director,

The Department's mission is to become a champion in Sport, therefore together with the center; we can do more in achieving that. We need more sustainable projects of this caliber to be able to attain our goals and objectives.

As the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we believe that the center also provides opportunities for individual development, social cohesion, and development of positive attitude and values which need young people to grab (them.)

In conclusion, Programme Director,

The department is not coming here for the first time, but this is the beginning of a sustainable working relationship. We are still going to come back, visit the center, and give the necessary support to ensure that the project grows to greater heights.

We congratulate the initiators of this project for their vision. Our country and our province in particular, need more of these facilities more than we need taverns. I hope the community will show its appreciation by utilizing this facility to the fullest.

‘Together we can do more’

Ke a leboga!

Thank you!