



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

VOTE OF THANKS DELIVERED BY MEC KEKANA AT THE 2023 MARULA FESTIVAL MEDIA LAUNCH

Thursday, 16 March 2023

LEDET MEC Honourable Rodgers Monama
The Executive Mayor of the City of Polokwane, His Worship Cllr. Mosema John Mpe
Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality- Cllr Merriam Malatji
LTA Board Chairperson- Mr. Andrew Dipela
Members of the media
Ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you members of the media for making this media launch a success tonight. It is through your rigorous commitment to the communications of government events; do we truly say that our people have access to information. Be it on social media or traditional media, the work you do is recognised, and we thank you.

The Marula Festival is guided by the prescripts of the National Development Plan, while its growth and surrounding infrastructure in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipal area are a direct response to national policy focus on Rural Development.

When the Marula Festival has come and gone, it should have left behind a positive legacy and economic spin-offs for the people of Phalaborwa. It is as such that the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) is here, and we appreciate the partnership the agency fosters with government in further availing its resources for the festival. We are very pleased with the social advances we have made through this festival as the town of Phalaborwa becomes full during this period. This year should be no different.

Programme Director I would also like to forward words of appreciation to the Executive Mayor of the City of Stars, Cllr John Makoro Mpe for hosting us this evening. Although the Marula festival will be held at the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, The City of Polokwane has not shied away from assisting us drive the media launch here in the city.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will work in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the District and Local municipality to realise a successful Marula Festival from the 12 to 22 April 2023.

All stakeholders supporting this programme are recognised and we send our gratitude. Without support, this very launch and the ultimate event next month may not see the light of day.

I wish you well for the rest of the night and hope that you will further make use of this opportunity to network and be merry.

I thank you.