



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

WORDS OF SUPPORT DELIVERED BY MEC NAKEDI KEKANA AT THE MEDIA LAUNCH OF THE POLOKWANE CITY 4 IN 1 MARATHON

POLOKWANE- WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2023

MEC for Health Dr. Phophi Ramathuba.

The Executive mayor of the Capricorn District, Cll. Mamedupu Teffo
Executive Mayor of the City of Polokwane, His worship John Makoro Mpe,
who we are convened here by

Polokwane City Council Speaker, Cllr Phetola Rapetswa

Members of the Mayoral Committee present here

Stakeholders and sponsors

HOD of Sport, Arts and culture Daphne Ramokgopa

HOD for Health Dr Muthweiwana Dombo

Ladies and Gentlemen of the fourth estate, the media.

Sportsmen and Women present here.

The business community

Good evening!

It is both an honour and privilege to be here today at this exquisite event.

Let me be quick to congratulate the Executive Mayor of the City of Polokwane Cllr. John Makoro Mpe on continuing to foster this City as the sport hub of the Limpopo Province.

It is through the work of the Polokwane Municipality that Limpopo citizens are encouraged to have continuous mass participation in sport activities, road running development, healthy smart living and offer the community and the nation an opportunity to compete against athletes from all over the country, and Africa as a whole.

I say this as I understand that the registered runners club members and anyone who has interest in running or walking from all over the country,

SADC and the whole of Africa, is eligible to participate in this prestigious event.

I get motivation from the now late fellow runner Fred Lebow, the New York City Marathon co-founder who once said “In running, it doesn’t matter whether you come in first, in the middle of the pack, or last. You can say, ‘I have finished.’ There is a lot of satisfaction in that.”

Executive Mayor, there is more satisfaction in the work that is being done here today. You are taking it personally, and leading this very tight to your village through the Makoro Village run. As you take running as seriously as you are, I only hope that it motivates many of us to join in.

As our friends in the media are now here- let us use this platform to call on their audience to support the City in its endeavors to have sport as an integral part of our social cohesion.

The Mayoral Golf Day, Executive Mayor, will give you the ability to have an extended period of time with your stakeholders, without suits, agendas or offices to formalise your actions. It is through that very sport where we believe corporate Limpopo and government will unite even further. And we will always be there to support.

Programme Director, as part of active recreation program, #IChoose2bActive through sport, my Department has introduced fun runs in every district marathon that will be supported or initiated by us. This is effective from 2023!

I see that the City is already making strides in that kind of initiative, with this very 4 in 1 marathon already including 10km run or walk and 5km fun run or walk for men and women in the age categories: Junior; Open; Veteran and Masters, Grand Masters and Great Grand Masters.

We urge all districts to be part of this “I choose to be active” programmes and ensure that there are fun walks at all major marathons they host.

This kind of movement in sport towards realising our deliverables as government is central to what the District Development Model (DDM) seeks to achieve. It is in that very DDM where President Cyril Ramaphosa instructed us to ensure that the three spheres of government coordinate and integrate development plans and budgets and mobilise the capacity and resources of

government and civil society, including business, labour and community, in pursuit of inclusive growth.

As I conclude Programme Director, allow me to wish the City well in the Four in 1 Marathon which is a Comrade Qualifier in the region.

Let us also go and urge young ones at schools to join school sport, athletics included. That is where we will spot top runners of tomorrow, and perhaps save many lives when they choose to be active.

We fully support your programme. We are behind you, and we remain proud.

One unknown author once said “One run can change your day, many runs can change your life”.

Thank you.

**21 Biccard St, POLOKWANE, 0699. Private Bag X9549, POLOKWANE, 0700
Tel: (015) 284 4009, Fax (015) 284 4500**

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