



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE 2022 SAPA YOPA GALA DINNER BY MEC NAKEDI KEKANA

1 December 2022

Program Director: Sally Sithole

The Executive Mayor of the City of Polokwane Cllr John Makoro Mpe

Newly elected president of SAPA YOPA- Mr Fortune Maswanganyi.

**Our Head of Department of the Limpopo Department of Sports, Arts
and Culture Mrs Mapula Daphne Ramokgopa**

Distinguished guests, Good evening.

Today we celebrate a social- and charity-oriented group, yourselves, who never cease to lend a helping hand to the needy and the less privileged in our society.

While reading and preparing for this address, I marvelled as I came across your objective, that your club, SAPA YOPA is “built on brotherhood and a show of utmost respect among yourselves and other road users”. I must say your work to gather goodies for orphanages and destitute homes in Limpopo is more than the word brotherhood and respect- but as well as courageous and patriotic.

It is as such you find us here today to give you our support as government- so as to continue doing the Godsent work that you have been doing since your establishment in 2008.

As you celebrate yet another milestone 14 years later into your existence- noting your growth and ever increasing patriotic efforts, allow me to use this opportunity to remind you of this world commemorated day, the AIDS day.

The country is pulling all stops to bring an end to this long time pandemic. This year's national theme is 'Equalise and Integrate to End AIDS'. We make a call to you here tonight, when you engage in your regular prayers at different locations across the province and the country, to imagine the total eradication of persistent inequalities, which hinder progress against the country's efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat.

These inequalities include the exclusion and inadequate access to health services as a result of poverty and against key and vulnerable populations. Our Health minister, on behalf of the Deputy President of our country as chairperson of the National AIDS Council, reiterated earlier today that "low-income households that are situated in the poorest and most marginalised areas of our cities, small towns, and rural villages, constitute the majority of those affected" by HIV and AIDS.

And that is where you come in. Programme Director- your motorcycles draw attention in these very townships and villages- and we call on you to grab that opportunity to further educate our society about this pandemic- and remind them that it has never left us.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world is also observing 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. As government, together with organisations like yours, hand in glove, we should continue to put efforts on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). It is gaining momentum through the implementation of programmes by both government and civil society, and I believe as well, that you will play a pivotal role in that matter. According to the United Nations, More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. As your roaring machines are on the road taking bends, I also believe you would better propel the message that this pandemic must end and it must end now!. Men must stop killing us! And it is you caring man, that should amplify this message.

Tomorrow night, I will be part of an international boxing boutique squaring with an objective to fight GBVF. MEC for Health Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and MEC for Public Works Nkakareng Ragoale will join me at the Ngoako Ramathlodi sporting complex in Seshego. With that sparring, we want to send a very strong message against GBVF.

Esteemed guests. The motto of your club is "Live the Dream".

So MaSapa, or Mazafioz, or Top7 or Mapara a Limpopo, as you have also nicknamed yourselves- let me remind you that you have installed an annual culture in Limpopo that which we are very proud of. It could have only been a dream to touch so many lives through your organization, and you are indeed living it.

You inspire us to do more with your charity work- and applaud you to never end such support to the people of our province. We hope for a hive of economic opportunities for not only hawkers during this coming weekend, but for attendants to interact among one another on how they could better assist in developing our economy, bringing about a night life that is vibrant- and of course cultural activities that would best be an attractive state of our province to tourists.

As we enter the festive season- we pray for your safety on our roads. We appeal to motor vehicle drivers be conscious of the fact that they share the road with motorcyclists such as yourselves- and of course wish you well.

We are looking forward to spending time with you tomorrow morning and painting the streets of Polokwane at the Mapungubwe Festival. We will also be welcoming our son, Idols 19 winner, Thapelo Molomo.

Your roaring bikes, the colourful clothes of Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Sepedi ISindebele, Afrikaans Coloureds and other nationalities will paint Polokwane red. See you there.

I thank you.

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

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