

SPEECH DELIVERED BY SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE MEC, NAKEDI KEKANA ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING THE 2022 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP IN MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG

Executive Mayor of Waterberg Municipality, Cllr Morris Mataboge,

Cllr Mpedi from Modimolle Mookgopong Municipality,

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Education Department representative , Mr Lesibana Ledwaba,

NYDA representative Mr Kenny Motshekgoa ...

Camp Master Mr Koki Maluleke from Love Life..

Management and Officials from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Education

Young boys and girls.

Good evening.

This year's youth camp is significant in many ways.

The green and digital transitions are opening up new opportunities for young people in particular. As young as you are in your high school years, this are some of the thoughts you need to start talking on in your circles. We need artisans in the very near future- infact we need them today and we hope your activities here will guide you to that direction and skillful development and critical leadership skills.

The purpose of this camp, seeing that you are from different cultures and backgrounds, is to bring about your athletic activities, cultural tolerance and knowledge, and ensure that there is educational development of all of you gathered here.

I urge you to learn new skills in this nurturing and safe environment.

This year's Youth Camp's motto has three imperative phrases- **Learn, Lead and Serve.**

When we talk of the term **learn**- of which you will be doing here for the coming few days, is that it is essential to our core of existence. Without it, we will not have the knowledge to live life as we do today.

Just like food nourishes our bodies, information learned and continued learning nourishes our minds.

In 2017, Amit Nagpal, a leadership influencer wrote in one of his columns that “continuous learning forms a necessary part in acquiring critical thinking skills and discovering new ways of relating to people from different cultures. To live a life without continuous learning is unthinkable”.

I agree with him.

Not all of us could **lead** at a time, but all of us lead at some point in our lives. It is thus important to sponge all the skills you are taught here as our leaders of tomorrow. Even a teacher- a profession I am proud of- leads their learners to greater heights from education acquired through learning.

In leadership activities here, I hope that you will be able to discover your self-confidence and independence in that you learn how to lead others with humility, respect and compassion.

Is then **servng** the country will come into light- whether in the private sector or in the public sector when you grow up, all those leadership tenets you would have attained through learning should be able to move our economy forward.

As a department, we endeavor to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young persons with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship in their future. Is for that reason that in conjunction with the national department of Sports, Arts and Culture- all 120 of you from different regions of our province are there.

This captures essence of its focus, which is to nurture a spirit of social cohesion and nation building, and yourselves with life skills and values that will help you develop into proud and patriotic leaders of communities.

Programme director, lets us make the environment prone for the young ones here toniht to make new friends, build up social skills, bond with nature, stay away from technology and their gadgets as much as possible, Physical activity, Boost their self-confidence in the process.

In those breakaway sessions, let us teach these young ones

- A good model of healthy living,
- They should nurture social skills,
- Fosters teamwork

- And above all, it encourages self-growth.

Young boys. This is to you.

Our country is currently facing a pandemic equal to that of covid-19 that you have experienced. That's pandemic is called Gender Based Violence and Femicide. It is in that pandemic, where men assault women in different malicious manners, and some sadly kill them. To you the boy child- we urge you to be different. We raise you in these summer camps for you to understand compassion and accountability. I know that you will grow up to be better South Africans. In fact- you will grow up to work to end this violence against women and children. *Makgarebe ga a bethwe. Le ga tee. Le go rogwa, ga ba rogwe.* There are better ways to win an argument- hence we have debating teams in schools. They debate their differences away.

One of the fundamental pillars of government's immediate plan to end this scourge of gender based violence and femicide is to prevent it from happening. I know that you will have a different outlook as you grow and ensure that no woman is killed just because they are a woman.

GBV doesn't only happen to girls, but boys as well. Should you experience any treatment inconsistent with how you would like to be treated- report it immediately to law enforcers.

Ladies and gentleman. I also use this opportunity to challenge officials of our department.

I would like to see more young persons with disabilities also being part of this remarkable events. Persons with disabilities are also part of our province- and we need to render our outmost support to them and their families. Next year- let us ensure that more programmes are tailor made for them to also enjoy and learn.

As I conclude, I reiterate that you are not only here to play- but to learn. You are here to learn to be better people in our society, leadt it in the future- and serve it with distinction when the need will be arising. Continue being disciplined- and all the best for the next few days.

I thank you