



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



Speech by MEC Constance Bellah Kupa-Mabuza, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, at the Mapungubwe Arts Festival Choral Festival, Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane Municipality, Capricorn District, 3 October 2026

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality

The Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality

Head of Department Mme Mokgonyana

Traditional Leaders

All Stakeholders

Our distinguished Choristers

Media Houses present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani. Avuxeni. Ndi masiari. Lotshani. Goeie dag! Thobela! Good day to everyone gathered here today.

It is a great honour to welcome representatives from all five districts of the province to the Mapungubwe Choral Festival.

We have come together not only to celebrate the power and beauty of choral music, but also to affirm the important role of choral in strengthening social cohesion, preserving our heritage and building united communities.

Over the years, the Mapungubwe Choral Festival has grown into an important platform for artistic excellence and cultural pride in Limpopo. The choral festival showcases the extraordinary musical talent found in our communities and demonstrates the ability of the arts to unite people, bridge differences and deepen a shared sense of belonging.

Choral music is more than beautiful harmony and melody. It carries our history, languages, values and collective memory from one generation to the next. Through song, communities express hope, resilience and unity. This festival is therefore both a platform for artistic expression and a powerful instrument for social cohesion and nation-building.

Limpopo is a province of rich cultural diversity and remarkable creative talent. Through this festival, voices from different communities and traditions come together in

harmony, reflecting the unity in diversity that defines our province and our nation.

To all participating choirs and choristers, I extend my profound appreciation for your dedication and passion. Your voices give life to this festival and carry the cultural heritage of our communities with dignity and pride. Whether you receive an award today or not, your participation is a contribution to the growth of choral music in the province.

I also thank the organisers and all stakeholders whose commitment has made this gathering possible. Your work sustains this important platform and contributes to a vibrant cultural sector in our province.

The Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture remains committed to supporting choirs, while expanding opportunities for young and emerging talent. Festivals of this nature strengthen the creative economy, promote cultural tourism and create opportunities for skills development, participation and community upliftment.

As we enjoy today's performances, let us listen not only to the beauty of each voice, but also to the message of unity

carried by every song. May this festival inspire us to protect our heritage and our languages, United in diversity

Ngiyabonga. Ha khensa! Ndo livhuwa! Ke a leboga. Thank you. Baie dankie.