

WELCOME ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP- THE MAYOR OF MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY DURING THE LIMPOPO- HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD ON THE 25th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT SAMSON PHOPHI STADIUM-VLEIFONTEIN.

Programme Director,
Honourable Premier, Stan Chupu Mathabatha
Khosikhulu Vho Toni Mphephu Ramabulana
Misanda yothe, Vho Ndabezitha ba hina
Honourable MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Comrade Onica Moloi
Honourable MEC for Economic Development, Environment &
Tourism, Comrade Chalie Sekoati
The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Radzilani
The Mayor of Musina Municipality, Cllr
The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Cllr
The Mayor of LIM 345, Cllr
All Speakers and Chief Whips present
Honourable Councillors here present
The HOD for Sports, Arts and Culture
All Municipal Managers and Directors present
The staff from Sports, Arts and Culture and other sector departments and the Organizing Team
Municipal Officials
Tourism and Heritage Stakeholders & Service Providers
Performing groups from all corners of our beautiful province
Learners and students
Distinguished Guests
Representatives from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I rise to welcome you all to this Provincial Heritage Day Celebrations held at the Samson Phophi Stadium.

We are celebrating Heritage Day in a stadium that is very much a part of the political heritage our Province.

This stadium is named after one of our activist and former leader of the ANC, SACP, COSATU (SADTU), Comrade Samson Phophi. He was a selfless and outstanding revolutionary of our times.

Comrade Samson Phophi, like Comrade Thandabantu and many other martyrs of our liberation struggle, took it upon themselves to educate and train young cadres in their community to become active agents of change and freedom.

We must treat this stadium as a place of pilgrimage, to come and celebrate Samson Phophi's life and his contribution to the freedom of our people and our country.

This is a very special stadium indeed, not just its structure but what it symbolizes.

The people of Ward ????? and the rest of Makhado Municipality would also want me to express sincere and revolutionary appreciation to the Provincial government under the distinguished leadership of Premier Stan Chupu Mathabatha, and our MEC, Mme Onnica Moloji for choosing our Municipality to host this important heritage celebration.

You have brought the rest of the province to Vhembe and Makhado in particular, and that in itself is a direct contribution to domestic tourism, local economic development and the building of peace and cultural harmony amongst our people.

We are indeed welcoming you to Makhado Municipality, the home of the Great Warrior- Tshilwavhusiku Makhado, the home of Njhakanjhaka and Mulima, the shared home of the Afrikaner and the people of Buysdorp, the home of ancient civilisations like Mapungubwe that flourished in the 12th century and natural wonders like Fundudzi and Tshipise; a home of multilingualism and certainly a home of rich diversity of cultural heritage.

Today, we have gathered to celebrate the people of Limpopo. We have come to remind ourselves that "I am because you are, You are because I am".

This is the spirit of Ubuntu/vhuthu, vumunhu which enshrined the values of African solidarity, compassion, respect, human dignity and collective unity characterised the lifestyles of our forebears.

We have come together, to celebrate and reflect on our diverse heritage and history. Racism, sexism and tribalism must be uprooted and eradicated from our society, because they undermine the principles and values of our Constitution.

Programme Director,

All of us have a patriotic duty to promote and protect our hard worn freedoms, democracy and a culture of peace, human rights and respect for the law.

The African stories, legends, fairytales, the music and dance of this historical epoch must reflect these values and norms.

Programme Director;

This day must remind us, that culture is a tool for human existence and social development. Culture and language must not be a tool to divide our communities.

Today, is a day of African fashion, song, poetry, dance and music and most importantly the coming together of families, children, parents, the elderly and our youth to celebrate our common heritage.

Today you are going to be entertained by various performing groups and artists from all corners of our Province. You will feast your eyes with different, colourful and attractive types of traditional wear, music and dance.

This is what makes us the great Limpopo. This is part of our cultural heritage. It is a great source of our pride and our unique cultural identity.

Programme Director;

My task is to render a word of welcome to our guests and everyone who has graced our province today.

Let us join hands and celebrate the Limpopo Heritage Day, For “I am because You Are, You Are because I am”

Embrace this Day & Enjoy Yourselves, Today!!!!

End

Office of the Mayor
September 2016