

Emfuleni Local Municipality's Executive Mayor, Her Worship, Councilor Dikeledi Tsotetsi, during the Indigenous games taking place at Saul Tsotetsi Sports Complex.

Program director

Guest players from neighboring municipalities, fellow Councilors present

Participants from within Emfuleni employee's teams

Organized sports forums present

The community of Sebokeng

Ladies and Gentlemen,

09th September 2007

Warm and special welcome to all participating teams.

September is devoted to heritage and tourism month and Gauteng Government launched Pale ya Rona, Carnival serving to celebrate our communities' diverse heritage wealth. Today's program is part and continuation of Emfuleni Vaal River Carnival an annual program of celebrating our Heritage through indigenous games.

One of the most wonderful aspects about culture is that it makes all of us equals. Its is either you have talent or you don't. You can come here with all advantages in terms of race, gender, status, class, but if you cannot not sing nor play you cannot. Our presence here today must assist us, to discover the raw talents that need further nurturing.

During the indigenous game festival of this year held at Eastern Cape, Minister of Sports& Recreation reminded this Country about the importance of a deeper understanding that all forms of games have indigenous origin , say for instance Karate is a Chinese indigenous game, Marathon is Greece, football is associated with England the list goes on, The hegemony of different cultures and nations on the world has helped to globalize this games to the extend that they as common accepted to all rather than being indigenous to any people.

Yet all indigenous games of our continents are still unknown even within our respective communities and countries.

This is very dangerous, it entrenches such stereotypes that makes us look like savages with no civilization and no cultural heritage, reducing us to be second rate athletes, surviving by imitating others.

"If we neglect culture we actually are neglecting the Soul of the nation that binds us together and makes us the same and makes us have common identity"

The revival of indigenous games in SA is essential for the call of African Renaissance envisioned dreams, gained momentum driven by the national department of Sport & Recreation (SRSA) mass participation program, which focuses on both vertical and horizontal sports development. Lets us also play our meaningful role in this rare offered opportunity incorporating all spheres of government structures.

Ha Re rute bana ba rona dipapadi tsa setso, Phambili nge emidlalo ya Bantu :
Dibeke, Diketo, Kgathi, Khokho, Juskei, Moraba-raba, Ncuva, Tik-tokBlikkies and many more...
Like other sport and recreation codes, indigenous games impact on a number of socio-economic issues such as African identity, cultural diversity, education and training accessibility of resources, international relations economic growth and so forth ...

With this program of cultural empowerment, we are building up momentum for celebrating the Heritage Day on 24th September as would be hosted by Mogale City in our Province. We are advancing the need of our people, and citizenry to be recognized as fully contributing social and economic counterparts within our area and outside.

Sports bring people together; it builds community bridges and contributes positively towards social cohesion it has also proven to be one contributor in government efforts of Nation Building.

Once again, allow me to say that I am extremely happy to draw in men and women of this caliber to join hands with the municipality. Let all the best players and teams win and value the awards to be presented in honor for their dedicated participation

On behalf of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, I would like to acknowledge that this event means a great deal, not only to those who are being entertained and invested, but also to all the people of Emfuleni.

In conclusion

We the people of Emfuleni add our voice that Gauteng is the home of champions,
We are nation united in our diversity, and pride ourselves of all our national colours, and symbols
Let the games begins,

You belong, we care

I thank you.