

***SPEECH OF THE MAYOR OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, HER WORSHIP COUNCILLOR IVY MODILE PHAAHLA ON THE OCCASION OF LIMPOPO BOXING PROMOTION-“WINTER POWER PUNCH TOURNAMENT”, LEBOWAKGOMO CIVIC CENTRE DELIVERED BY COUNCILLOR RAMOSHABA LEDIKWA LUCAS.***

23 JUNE 2012

Programme Director

Distinguished Guests

Colleagues and Visitors

Ladies and Gentlemen

GOOD AFTERNOON!!!

Thank you very much for inviting me to this majestic gathering of the Limpopo Boxing Promotion-“Winter Power Punch Tournament”, a well known Tournament. This tournament assembles an extremely experienced pool of boxers from different places and exposes them to hard core boxing competition. It is indeed, with a great honour and privilege for me to accept this responsibility to say a few words and also welcome all distinguished guests to Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we are all aware that the divided past of our country and people, which was put into cul-de-sac through a democratic process in 1994 when we had our first historic democratic and people-centred elections, was characterised by a plethora of apartheid discriminatory laws and practices based on race, gender and class.

The sport and recreation sector did not escape the plague of officially recognised, institutionalised and non-institutionalised racial, gender and class practices. The black majority, Africans in particular, the indigenous people of

this land, did not have equal rights and access to sport and recreation as well as competitive or recreational sport opportunities at school and community levels.

So as municipality, we say thank you for your farsightedness, and believe that this Winter Power Punch Tournament culture will continue to be our living testimony in building new boxing stars.

We believe that the Limpopo Boxing Promotion is in line with the mission statement of the Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) “to maximise access, development and excellence at all levels of participation in sport and recreation in order to improve social cohesion, nation building and the quality of life for all South African”.

We view this initiative as a beginning of a process to create an enabling environment to broaden participation of the black child in sport and recreation especially in boxing at all levels of participation. We are encouraged by such boldness as displayed by the leadership of Limpopo Boxing Promotion and other boxers who are taking part in this tournament, to create an atmosphere where our youth are encouraged to choose sport as a necessary tool to uplift their living conditions.

Such initiatives, in our view, contribute immensely towards the realisation of our national goals of building a healthy nation through healthy lifestyles. In the same vein, initiatives of this nature contributes constructively in the fight against crime, alcohol and drug abuse, abuse of women and children and reducing violence, teenage pregnancy, delinquency and all other social ills confronting South Africa and her youth today.

In this regard we would therefore like to take this occasion to present our cordial support to all the participants in this tournament especially the boxers who will take part in this important event. This tournament should epitomise one of the successful development programmes that government, with the help of Limpopo Boxing Promotion and other boxing clubs, is putting into place to groom future sport stars. We want to commit ourselves to use such Tournaments as bedrock for sport development in Lepelle-Nkumpi. It should harness talent in sport, and foster community development, social cohesion, economic integration and nationhood.

These games represent a new tradition for sport in our municipality, attracting the youth and stars of the future, but, at the same time grooming future South African champions from the wider community. As the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi, we expect the tournament to showcase the hidden boxing talent and allow you to participate meaningfully in the International games in future.

Our role as government is to present these opportunities so that these dreams are realised, and as government and communities where you belong, we will support you as you choose to grab these opportunities!

National government has prioritised school and community sport as a fundamental instrument for sport development in the country and will therefore support such related programmes. We will support these programmes and will continue to build a case for sport as a vehicle for development and nation building.

Ladies and Gentlemen, enjoy this Tournament, you have worked very hard to get here, give your best, make friends and as always play fair!

I THANK YOU!!