

Keynote Address Delivered During the Mayoral Mapungubwe Arts Games

Date : 7 October 2006

Venue: Lebowakgomo Cultural Center

Time : 10h00

Traditional Leaders

Head of Portfolio on Sports, Arts and Culture

Members of the Portfolio Committee

Manager for Community Services

Representatives from other Municipalities Print and Electronic Media

Municipal Officials

Participants and all invited guests, I want to greet and thank you for this opportunity to give this address today. I am therefore pleased to see efforts that our Arts Council and Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality are making to ensure that Arts is promoted and sustained in our municipal area. With South Africa hosting world cup in 2010 it is important that we showcase our artistic and craft talent so that , tourists can be able to buy and be proud about having visited South Africa. But for this to happen successfully our communities must identify with these Art materials so as to ensure that they are truly reflective of our diverse cultures. It is good to see that a lot of work has already been done and as such the work that has been done by our artists will have no relevance to your economic development if it is not going to be exposed to the broader community of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality in particular and South Africa in general. It is for this reason that Arts council need to develop strong links with the communities so as to showcase the work done by our artists.

For me this games are an important part of demonstrating our cultural and artistic talents, however one need to acknowledge that competition is about winning and when you lose it means you are afforded an opportunity to work harder than you did .We pride ourselves with what you have done and hope that you will put us on the map through your talents. I have carefully thought about the theme for today which is " Arts against Poverty" which indicates that we are able to improve our socio-economic situations through our natural talents. I am able to inform you today that, all your efforts will provide you with an opportunity to be much better communities than you are today. It will be wrong for us to think that after this day, you will have to wait for another year to showcase your talents. I am appealing to all involved that efforts should be made to ensure that each and every artistic piece that will be paraded here today and beyond get the necessary exposure so that we are able to respond to our theme. We should not avoid reality in terms of the unemployment rate which is at 35 percent in Limpopo and hopefully when many of you begin to realize your talent and opportunities this percentage will decrease. I am saying this because you can generate your own income and as you grow you can also create employment through Arts.

In his inaugural speech in May 1994, former President Mandela said "This was upon us we have at last achieved our political emancipation, now we pledge to liberate our people from continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation and other discrimination" In pursuit of that commitment made by President Mandela we should take this Arts games beyond entertainment and make Arts a strategic tool that will be used to eradicate both poverty and unemployment. Our communities need to understand that were there is Arts there is also a heritage and all of this needs to be preserved. We need to understand that a nation without past is a lost nation and these gives us a challenge to always be ensure that any artistic materials we craft should be reflective of our identity , history and future. Our past and future should be emphasized as this has been declared a year of hope. I am appealing to all of you to hope that through Arts we can eradicate poverty and through heritage we can be a proud community.

Program Director, I want to appeal to the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Arts Council to start talking about the establishment of the museum that can be reachable by everybody within the boundaries of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. Precisely because we should find a way of storing all these materials in one place so as to enable the work of each and every craft men and women to be exposed to the tourist market. We should understand that museums are places were aspects of the peoples past are placed. We need people to know that we in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality can be identified easily even if we live in a much diversified communities. The museum will assist us in ensuring that the work done by our crafts men and women can be stored for posterity and be made available to the public. The museum should concern itself with different aspects of our communities.

This museum I am challenging the Arts council about, should further concern itself with natural, cultural and artistic world around us. I am confident that this will be evident today for your view. The opinion expressed by Dr Credo Mutwa in March 1983 that people visit Art Centers, Cultural Centers and Museums to absorb, to be part of, and find inspiration to the nation. This alone is sufficient reason for the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality continued support of these initiatives.

We must commend the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Arts Council, the Municipal Officials and the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture for their efforts in ensuring that this event becomes a success. While our Municipality is strive to access funds for the funding of Arts and Cultural related development programs we believe that, we are now compelled to seek partnerships to attract funding so that we are able to speed up the development of our Arts and Culture. The Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality will continue to positively respond to this provincial call and hoping that when we move towards provincial games the private sector will assist us in ensuring that our flag is kept high. In conclusion, I would like to thank the staff, Portfolio Committee and the Arts Council that worked so hard to arrange and correctly conceptualizing these event that is held here today and once more thank the members of the council for the support they have been giving the Portfolio Committee in executing their mandate and wish all participants good luck and declare the games officially opened and competitive.

I THANK YOU. .