

RAMA Goodstart Games With Little Champs Welcome Speech by the Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality

Date: 22 July 2005

Thank you program director for the opportunity to say a few words at the start of this event. When my office got an invitation for me to come and give a message of welcome I did not hesitate to accept it. This is because ever since we heard the news that RAMA would be hosting this event in our municipality we have been waiting expectantly for it. And now the day has arrived and we are excited as we see the realization of the plans that have been going on for sometime.

I hold very dear to my heart any person and any plan that seeks to advance the well being of children. For I know that when you do things for little children you will most definitely get a reward for it. Most of the time the reward might not seem immediate. But this is like a seed which you put into the ground. No one puts seed into the ground and expects people to praise him and give him rewards for being the farmer of the year the following day. At the time when you put the seed into the ground you will not seem very different from all other people. You might actually appear poorer than everybody else because you have taken what you had and put it into the ground. The reason why people plough their fields and sow seeds is not because they expect to reap a harvest the same day or even the following day. The reason is because they have looked into the future and realized that if they used up everything that they have today tomorrow they might not have anything to sustain them. So when you sow seeds you are actually thinking about tomorrow and how you can make it better. But we know that people don't just sow seed in any type of soil. They consider the soil into which they are planting to ensure that it will give the best harvest. Where people have planted into good soil they rest knowing that in time they will realize a good harvest.

The reason why I am saying this is because any money or time that a person spends is seed which is planted. The question is what type of soil it is that a person is planting into. Let me assure all those who have chosen to plant into the lives of little children that they could not have chosen a better type of soil. This sowing can be in any way and need not only be money. Most of us have come to realize the fact that our children are not only interested in our money but value the time that we give them more than anything else. So as we gather today because of the little ones we are investing something into their lives. We know that in time what we are investing today will bear fruit. We actually are not just investing in the lives of children but are investing into our own future. As we start this day let us bear this in mind. We are making the future world to be what we require it to be.

To show the importance of treating children right Christ Himself said that if anyone was to cause a little child to stumble it would be better for a large stone to be tied around his neck and to have Him through into the sea. If this is the importance that Christ attaches to treating children right then we will be well advised to treat them well. By so saying I would like to say to those who have come today for the sake of the children that you have done well. Whether you know it or not your reward will be great one day. With these words I would like to say that you are heartily welcome. I believe that this day will be a much enjoyable day because you came. To the little children I would also like to say enjoy it. It is your day. All these things have been done for your pleasure and enjoyment. Our colleagues from RAMA – thank you for making this day possible. Please feel very welcome and please regard Lepelle Nkumpi as your home.

Enjoy the day!!