

SPEAKING NOTES FOR KU LUMA VUKANYI (FESTIVAL OF THE FIRST FRUIT  
BY MEC THANDI MORAKA 09 FEBRUARY 2019

Programme director

The House of Traditional Leaders, whose guidance is very key in this event,  
Kgoši Malesela Dikgale, the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders.

The Executive Mayor of Mopani, Nkakareng Rakgoale

The Mayor of the host municipality, Ba-Phalaborwa, Cllr Pule Shayi

All Councillors present,

The entity which is pivotal in the success of this programme, the Limpopo Tourism  
Agency

Members of the Media

Leaders of our parastatals

All protocol observed

Let me be forthrightly declare that Kuluma Vukanyi , a precursor to the Marula Festival  
is now officially opened.

I am indeed blessed to be part of this auspicious occasion. At the behest of our Magoshi,  
we are gathered here to enjoy the festival of the first fruit, Kuluma Vukanyi. Go Loma  
Morula.

One of the famous export brands to come from this tree is the Amarula Cream which  
generates millions for the province and not only that but it has created employment for  
hundreds if not thousands of people in this province. It is indeed a magical fruit that  
would somehow keep us energised this election period. It's production and harvest has  
seen it being exported to exotic countries like Germany, Switzerland and the USA where  
no festival is complete without the Amarula Cream

The Ancestor s'timing is always perfect. Programme Director it is no coincidence that  
February being a Valentines' month coincides with the Festival of the First Fruit. It is a  
month in which whatever that eats this fruit indulge, of which I am told the results will be  
seen nine months after.

As we converge here today other countries have their festivities as well but what makes  
certain festivities in the southern hemisphere to be common and in respect of social  
cohesion and our common heritage is the Marula Festival. It is celebrated in kwa Zulu-  
Natal known as Umthayi Marula Festival in the Royal Residence of eFihlweni where the  
harvest of the first fruit is brewed and delivered to Inkozi Tembe, in Mozambique and in  
Swaziland. Such festivities take place almost the same time but I the month of February.

Marula, Mkanyi, Mafula or Mngongo in Swahili has formed part of our traditions,  
folklore and ancestral rituals. You would recall that in IsiZulu, Mngongo means a high  
powered sound. Kuluma-Vukanyi is therefore a traditional and ancestral clarion call to  
bring people together. This auspicious festival is all about enjoyment, entertainment,

music and above all, the preservation of our heritage.

Programme director

Many warring tribes were brought together by this season.

Many warring clans were brought together by this tradition

Many families were brought together by this practice

It is a link with our ancestors that so brought us here. To renew the spirit, and to redirect our lost souls.

But this is the part best left to our Chiefs and Traditional healers to guide us in the spirit of social cohesion and national identity.

But more importantly let us make sure that our people benefit directly or indirectly from the tourism value chain, that the economic spin-offs we derive from such functions can sustain families.

Our continued support for this kind of a festival has seen it been elevated and being infused in to main festival led by my Department and the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism.

It is therefore befitting, programme director, to peruse and quote from one of the leading Chinese revolutionaries, Mao Zedong, when he said “Let a thousand flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend”, which was way of encouraging debates and the flourishing of arts , culture, heritage as well as the progress of science.

Once we understand the interrelatedness of such we then can be able, as we do now, understand the scientific properties of Marula tree as well as how it is anchored in our heritage and traditions. Let us allow our elders to lead this ceremony

Last but not least, Programme Director, You and I should not bit around the bush when it comes to the party we are going to vote for, a party that has officiated through a number of Marula festivals and will continue doing so in the 15th instalment of Marula and of Kuluma Vukanyi. And would lead even after the 8th May 2019. Just watch the space!

I thank you  
Ndo Livhua  
Nzhi khensile!  
Kea leboga!