

SPEAKING NOTES ON THE LAUNCH OF MAPUNGUBWE FESTIVAL BY THE MEC OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE THANDI MORAKA AT MUSINA 05 NOVEMBER 2018

MEC of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs,
Acting Head of Department,
CEO of Limpopo Tourism Agency,
Traditional Leadership,
Officials of the Department,
Members of the Media,
Distinguished guests,

I would like to advance my warm greetings to you all. I am profoundly pleased to host you for the media launch of the 17th edition of the Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival 2018.

Initially this festival was called the Melting Pot Festival, adopting the name Mapungubwe in 2006 in the quest to reassert our African heritage.

The name Mapungubwe derives from the ancient African kingdom of Mapungubwe in the pre-colonial era, located in the south of Zimbabwe.

The kingdom of Mapungubwe precedes the Munhumotapa Kingdom which existed where the current Republic of Zimbabwe is located. It is in this connection, that we decided to symbolically launch the event here in Musina.

This is where the great African kingdom was situated. The historical site of the city of Mapungubwe is an international heritage site; national park and an archeological site, thus a significant place.

According to the Tshivhula royal family, it is at this place, during the month of September, where the descendants would go to the hill and speak to the ancestors and the gods, to ask for peace, stability, rain and good health and good harvest.

In the same vein, we have come to ask for a hugely successful event. We are here to reconnect with our ancestors. To ask them to further their great deeds in promotion of our great African culture and heritage.

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe is associated with greatness. We, therefore, have a mammoth task to ensure that this festival becomes a powerful brand on the African continent.

Recently, the province of Limpopo was invited to the 6th Xai Xai cultural festival. During this event we noted the possibility of deepening our cultural exchange programme.

We expect to ensure that artists from the region participate in our festival to entrench our common cultural roots.

The purpose of this festival is to promote our rich and diverse cultural heritage and also deepen social cohesion and national identity as a people.

Beyond this the cultural festival should demonstrate and expose the artistic skills of local, regional and international musical artists, thereby expanding their market as artists.

This is in line with our vision to ensure that arts and culture contributes to economic growth and the livelihoods of the people of this country and Limpopo Province in particular.

We expect several artists in various genres including DJs, Gospel and African jazz, particularly local artists to participate in the festival. The following artists are expected to perform are

The festival will be preceded by build-up events in the five districts in the province to popularise and drum up support for the forthcoming cultural festival. We want to have a vast and inclusive list of musical artists drawn from local talent, regional and abroad.

We urge our people to buy tickets and support this festival. Let us take care of tourists from the length and breadth of the province, country and abroad. The artists and promoters must work with us to make this festival a great success.

I wish to thank you LTA for collaborating with in making the launch a success. We are looking forward to a great cultural festival!

I thank you.