

SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MEC OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE THANDI MORAKA ON THE SATMA AWARDS, 08 JUNE 2019

THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY THEMBI NKADIMENG
THE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE, CLLR JACK MAEKO
SPONSORS AND PARTNERS OF THE AWARDS
THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

Ladies and Gentlemen let me welcome you to this 14th Edition of the SATMA Awards Launch

We are elated to host this (South African Traditional Music Awards) SATMA Media Launch and I can already smell that we are about to host these Awards in the next season.

Let me take this opportunity to pay homage and bow our heads to our last year Best Sepedi Music Award winner, Thabo Seremi Maila, whom we lost tragically at the beginning of this year. May His Departed Soul Rest in Peace.

And I would like to heap praises on our young girl, Xihlovo Leticia Makhavele who at a young age of 15 became Miss Teen Tourism 2019. This young lad from Bungeni was awarded the title in Manila, Phillipines. Limpopo is making history, producing Presidents, International Athletes and now an International model at a tender age.

You would recall that this occasion is interspersed with Africa Day celebration under the "Healthy Lifestyle Prolongs [Life](#)".linking snugly with Agenda 2063."

"Free to be me" which is SATMA'S theme this year emphasises the centrality of yourselves as human beings expressing your being without any hindrance. Be yourselves because it's a constitutionally guaranteed inalienable right. You just cannot be anybody else or emulate his or her ways without losing yourself.

The "free to be me" theme amply resonates with what Steve Biko had said just before he was brutally and mercilessly killed, "I'm going to be me as I am, and you can beat me or jail me or even kill me, but I'm not going to be what you want me to be." Biko and other struggle stalwarts wanted us to be free to be ourselves.

Sepedi se re "Mmitja ga se Motingwa. " We cannot invite you and let you not feast with us.

SATMA AWARDS are an integral part of social cohesion and national identity and we had invited you tonight to share with us what we have in this melting pot of cultures and traditions SATMA AWARDS came at the right time and we would encourage that they should grow in leaps and bounds.

Africans generally are a people of music, when we mourn, when we bury our loved ones and when we are excited, we do sing. And that is therapeutic. Some people who don't understand this still think singing and perhaps it's them not being genuine to themselves is tantamount to being non literate. Yet it is the highest form of expressios.

One Opposition party member, got riled when other Members were singing in unison in parliament, which is part of our tradition and folklore, and called it, non-literate. In a way, she was subtly saying we are expressing ourselves in an illiterate or preliterate way.

She said, and that is Belinda Bozolli, and I quote " the ANC trying to "claim" Parliament as their own by using a recess to dominate the Chamber through sound. Their persistent and relentlessly deafening singing of struggle songs is really irritating".

And she went on further to say "Now they are exchanging gestures during song with the EFF. You can see how irresistible the call of nationalism is. Its symbolic and non literate forms (songs, dance, gestures) seem to matter more than clever words and well crafted arguments. Non-literate forms? My word! This one is gonna be taught to accept diversity.

It can't be that when we sing someone who has been elected to serve her party is still as backward as not understanding what traditional music is? She is completely lost and that is where SATMA comes in. To school her that literate form of expressions knows no colour. Arrogant people like her needs to be socialized into understanding that there is no culture that is superior, period!

Events of this nature have both direct and indirect economic spin-offs contributing to the rich and diverse heritage that we have as a Province. So it's a welcome initiative.

In honour of this Youths month , and the undying spirit of Peter Mokaba, Frans Mohlala.

In awe and political admiration, of the founding fathers of the youth movement, Anton Muziwakhe Lembede, Ashby Solomzi Mda, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo we need to ground our youth in revolutionary political theory. Without political theory you'll be more like a misguided missile shooting at everything and anything that cross your path, including your own as is recently becoming a tendency. Locate your contribution within the the transformation agenda. What we are doing in partnership with you is an integral part of the social transformation agenda.

Struggle songs were sung during all revolutionary epochs with two facets in mind.
To alert and to assert a revolutionary agenda
Program Director, "Without music, life would be a mistake" — Friedrich Nietzsche.
I thank you.

Sent from IBM Verse