

Department  
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE  
OFFICE of the MEC

REMARKS BY MEC KEKANA AT THE FEI WORLD JUMPING CHALLENGE GALA  
DINNER 04 OCTOBER 2023

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Leaders of the FEI  
Esteemed athletes.  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I cannot find words to express my appreciation for being part of this prestigious event.

I understand very well that this is the first international equestrian competition in the Limpopo Province.

Let me be quick to acknowledge the work of the South African Equestrian Federation and SA Show jumping organisers in making sure that we have this event. It's a mammoth task this, of which my Department is proud to associate itself with.

I am happy to note that the South African Equestrian Federation strives to increase the visibility of Equestrian Sport across South Africa, and in the process, identify opportunities to highlight and promote equestrian sport in an effort to raise its profile across our country.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture encourages the building and fostering of relationships with different stakeholders to initiate change in your sport, to constantly improve the environment in which it operates, and in the process maximise its visibility.

I hope that young people in this rural province would be invited even further to view this hospitable challenge, hopefully to encourage them to be involved in the immediate future.

This is the first FEI World Jumping Challenge in 9 years. Such a privilege that it is here.

Last year in November, I watched in awe when the FEI Awards 2022 were female dominated.

FEI President Ingmar De Vos said at the Awards that every year, the organisation looks to celebrate the best of the best of the sport, and the awards represented the

essence of the sport and shine a light on your values of equality, determination, and courage.

As I draw to my conclusion, I equally understand that development is also one of the six pillars of the FEI President's Manifesto, that is to; assists the organisation in achieving sustainable growth and self-sufficiency so that all members play a full and active part in the FEI and horsesport.

Our department meanwhile, support the provision of mass participation opportunities, the development of elite athletes, and the regulation and maintenance of facilities.

In that mood, we would look to have a winning nation that encourages the development of elite athletes, like yourselves, and Active Nation supports the provision of mass participation opportunities in sport and recreation.

Ladies and gentlemen, infrastructure support regulates and manages the provision of sport and recreation, and arts and culture facilities. This sub-programme also provides technical support during the construction, repair and renovation of buildings belonging to public entities and other institutions in the sport, arts and culture sector.

It is not a kids play to ensure that 16 athletes from 14 countries are gathered in one place, in rural province of Limpopo, all to compete at the highest level. Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Marocco, Mauritius, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe athletes. This is Limpopo at the far most north of South African, and I welcome you. I wish you well in all your future endeavours.

I thank you.