

Department
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
OFFICE of the MEC

Remarks by MEC Kekana at the Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival 2023 Media Launch

Tuesday, 05 December 2023

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality; Cllr. Mmamedupi Teffo
Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality; Cllr. Makoro John Mpe and his executive
Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong: Sechele Sebolai
The Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi: Cllr. Merriam Molala accompanied by the Chief Whip and the Speaker.
Other councilors present here from different municipalities
CEO of Limpopo Tourism Agency, Mr. Moses Ngobeni
CEOs of the State-Owned Enterprises
Chairperson of the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council
Limpopo Heritage and Resource Agency: led by Prof Mokgopa
Moral Regeneration led by Kgoshigadi Sekgopo
The Limpopo Arts and Culture Council led by Simon Kekana.
Limpopo Sport Confederation: Deputy Secretary Mpho Moretsele
Head of Department, Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa

Ladies and gentlemen of the 4th estate, the media

It is great pleasure to be here with you this day as we launch the 19th instalment of the world class Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival.
This comes after a successful 2022 festival, that shook the province all week long, and culminated with an open-air concert that many still talk of today. We remain thankful for the support that which South Africans, and you Limpopo residence give us.

It is happening across the province, and we have already begun.
During this past weekend, the Sekhukhune, Capricorn and Mopani districts had the pleasure of hosting build up activities, that included cultural parades which mesmerised the communities they were passing through. The cultural parades showcased the diverse, rich heritage and beauty of different cultures based in the Districts.

The build – up activities, served magnificently as a pre – cursor for the main 2023 Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival. We furthermore engaged in the Mapungubwe District Theatre, Comedy, Instrumental Performances and Craft

markets. In Capricorn District, the District Mapungubwe Craft Market, in partnership with Polokwane Municipality, had a two – day exhibition during the past weekend at the Paledi Mall, showcasing the unique arts and culture artefacts for the local markets.

In Sekhukhune, Districts festivities also took place in Jane Furse Plaza where Crafters reached out to the local market with artefacts such as beads, sculptures, paintings, pottery that symbolised the rich heritage and culture of the District and the Province as a whole.

In Mopani, the exhibition of the artefacts was in Lenyenye Community Hall, where the local people benefited from the richness of the locally produced craft and artefacts.

As a Department, we strive to ensure that this year’s festivities are productive, diverse and envisage to protect, preserve, promote and develop Arts, Culture and Heritage landscape and advance the socio-economic inclusivity and contribution of the Sector.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is strategically positioned to embark on the strategy to reposition the arts, culture, and heritage sector as key players in the government’s programme of action for social cohesion and nation building, the creation of sustainable jobs and ensuring social and economic development. This Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Programme will ensure that the Creative and Cultural Industry of the Province is preserved and promoted from the local level all the way to our main festival.

Arts and culture is what we do. It is who we are as a Sector.

The 2023 Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival is a programme enriched with activities that will respond to the needs and aspirations of the Limpopo Creative Industry. The activities commence in this festive season to March 2024 as follows:

Mapungubwe District Build Ups that started this previous weekend: 02 – 09
December 2023

Mapungubwe Cultural Carnival: 08 December 2023

Mapungubwe theatre theatre, Drama and Poetry nights: 10th – 11th December
2023

Mapungubwe Craft Market and exhibition: 09th – 16th December 2023

Mapungubwe Comedy night: 14th December 2023

Mapungubwe Music Festival: 16 December 2023

Mapungubwe Choral Festival: 12-17 February 2024

Mapungubwe Film and Video symposium- 19-24 February 2024

Mapungubwe Youth and Diva Festival: 02 March 2024

Mapungubwe Marathon and Rugby Cup: 09 March 2024

Ladies and gentlemen, this is deliberate. It will not be a one-week affair. The programme will run until the financial year ends, solely to ensure that our whole province in the sectors of Sport, Arts and culture benefit from the programme. It is not only a Mapungbwe of singers and artists in the entertainment industry, but for the whole sector.

Those events will also have performing artists forming part of the event.

The late Statesman and Father of the nation, Nelson Mandela once said, and I quote;

“Artists reach areas far beyond the reach of politicians. Art, especially entertainment and music, is understood by everybody, and it lifts the spirits and the morale of those who hear it.”

Through the arts, we see a clear reflection of the architecture of society and thus inspire social change.

They capture the painful rhythms, the aspirations, as well as the agonies and the ecstasies of their society.

The entertainment sector is important in bringing again social cohesion and nation building, and It thus gives me great pleasure to announce part of the 2023 artist line up for the main open-air concert to be held on the 16th of December 2023.

Makhadzi

King Monada

Pleasure Tsa Manyalo

Master KG

Shebe-shebe

Kharishma

Dr. Winnie Mashaba

Shibu Molomo

Mr. Post

Taki Ndou

Lungi Ndala

Dr. Colbert Mukhwevho

Urban Matjila

Dr. Thomas Chauke

And many others who will be unveiled during the course of this week. Stay tuned.

We are showcasing our province to the country, and our country to the province. This is our flagship programme, and its success is the success of the province at large.

I therefore launch the 2023 Mapungwe Arts and Cultural festival.

Let the Festivities begin.

#Mapungubwe2023

#BuildingLimpopoTogether

I thank you.