

EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S SPEAKING NOTES AT THE MEDIA LAUNCH OF THE MAYORAL GOLF DAY AND THE BLUE BULLS VS SHARKS RUGBY WARM-UP MATCH, 21 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE POLOKWANE GOLF CLUB

MMC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Special Focus, Cllr Maja

Other Councillors who are here

Municipal Manager, Mr Dikgape Makobe

Members of Executive Management

CEO of the Blue Bulls, Mr Barend van Graan and his support team

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

Our gathering here today marks yet another year in which we join hands with business, stakeholders and those who support our municipal programmes in launching two major contributors in our fight against poverty and lack of access to quality education. The **Mayoral Golf Day** has been a flagship project that has seen the municipality connect with communities through partnership of sport. Equally, the **Blue Bulls Rugby Warm-Up Match** has been our greatest instrument in assisting disadvantaged learners to access quality education. This is how we define our community responsibility beyond our daily task of providing services through infrastructure development for water, electricity and roads.

In the past years we have assisted over 30 non-governmental organisations around our municipality with annual direct contribution of over R30,000 each. Whilst this may be a drop in the ocean, it is significant in a sense that we have consistently aimed to better the offering with each year and ensure sustainability of such NGOs, hence our presence here to launch the Mayoral Golf Day. The event will take place on **Friday, 01 December 2017** at the **Polokwane Golf Club**, with the tee-off at 07:00. We expect maximum participation from golfers and companies that see value in building

communities in this manner, our target for this year is to raise at least R2 million. This project has been close to my heart since I joined this municipality and I see its value beyond just the sporting event, but that we are daily writing the story of our communities, telling them that sport is a tool that brings life to society; in its health sense as well as the economic impact it makes.

There are still opportunities for those who would like to participate in this event to come buy various packages that we have available from our Sport & Recreation Office before the closing date. Thankfully, we have so far been able to secure sponsorship from some of our old partners whose vision ties well with us in making Polokwane and its disadvantaged people grow. Those who want to share in this dream with us have a few days to do so by buying a package.

In addition to this golfing event, we continue to raise the flag for social cohesion through our long-standing partnership with the Blue Bulls Rugby Union. This partnership has in the past sponsored various students, some of who are on the verge of graduating at various tertiary institutions.

On 27 January 2018 we bring a historic match between the Vodacom Blue Bulls and the Cell C Sharks. For years we have yearned for such an encounter and it is going to be a reality in January 2018.

Proceeds from this event will continue to support those learners who are capable of progressing academically but lack financial resources. We decided in 2016/17 that instead of sponsoring part of tuition, our sponsorship should be a full bursary to allow the current 52 students to worry about studying and passing instead of whether their full fees will be paid. It is in that spirit that even as we continue in 2018, those able students shall receive assistance with full tuition and accommodation for the duration of their stay. For this to happen we need a strong support from the fans as well as the community of Polokwane. Tickets will go on sale in the second week of December in various categories as indicated by our partner Mr Barend van Graan.

Thank you ladies and gentleman, help us become ambassadors of this work we are doing by inviting all to come participate in the golf tournament on the 1st December 2017 and in the Rugby Warm Up match on 27 January 2018.

Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng
EXECUTIVE MAYOR