

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR, Me.
MATSHIDISO MODISE AT THE NALEDI SPORTS GAMES HELD ON THE
02ND JUNE 2007 IN WEPENER.**

The Mayor of Naledi, Ntate Motlohi,
Free State Youth Commissioners present,
Leaders from fraternal organizations,
All Young people of Naledi,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday we were in Morojaneng launching the youth month. Today we are here in Wepener for Naledi Sports Games.

Programme Director, I need to indicate that, I am really humbled by the response of young people in this municipality to activities that affect them as youth. As I came along to this place, my mind gone back to our times as young people then. I remembered the games we used to play such as diketo, morabaraba, netball, soccer, dibeke, jwalojwalo.

While in that state of mind, I recalled of how we made a ball that we used to play; we would take wreck clothes, plastics and papers and fuse them together in a round form and tie it tied with orange bag to turn it into a ball and play with it. As children, we never looked down to this brilliant art rather were proud and happy that we were able to develop our own ball that we did not need money to do.

We played from morning until late; we would even forget that we had some family duties to perform as a result of games. I therefore asked myself a question; how are these Naledi Sports Games would be? Nonetheless, I just told myself that, I must have hope and trust that, we still have youth and children who really are keen in becoming sports women and men of this country and that is their dream they would love to live up to.

Programme Director, the attendance and participation of young people and their response to these games today, reflect the commitment and demonstrate hope they have in achieving their dreams and pride on being young.

Let me say to you that, Sports have opened many doors of success to our people both black and white. Apartheid is gone; we need to demonstrate unapologetically that we can as Africans conquer the world of sports no matter whether we are poor or rich. Our destiny can never be determined by others while we are still alive. This is the kind of spirit I would like you to live by as of today.

This country since 1994 has proven beyond all odds that, we are a winning nation. This flag must be kept up all the time without shame. We must be able to produce the Benni McCarthy's of tomorrow, Godfrey Sapulas, Mkheleles, Jomo Sono, Irvin Khoza, you name them. These games must be utilized as an opportunity to both of you in building the democratic sport we always talked about prior 1990s.

Most of you as I said, have dreams to become sport stars of the future, make use of this opportunity to build towards your dream. As you get into the

game, tell yourself that, whatever you play, you are playing for your country. Tell yourself that you are a star without being told so by others.

In conclusion, Programme Director, I would like to call upon all our sports organization to come down to these small towns and discover talent that is underutilized and unnoticed. Bring all your sport clinics to these former disadvantaged communities and discover stars that you die to have in your teams.

I also call upon business communities, to begin investing more on the emerging talents in townships and ensure that our local teams become the Bloemfontein Celtics of tomorrow.

I thank you!