

Welcome Speech by the Executive Mayor during Boxing Tournament at Thabong Community Centre, 08 December 2007

MEC for Sport, Arts & Culture, Mr. Magashule

Councilors

Boxing Promoter, Mr. Mabuya

Managers, Trainers and Boxers

Other Dignitaries present here

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to welcome the participants of the boxing association in this district. This district used to host boxing tournaments of the highest levels. I also wish to acknowledge the presence of our MEC for Sport, Arts & Culture and thank him for assisting this process. The tournament, to be attended by the MEC for Sport, and other dignitaries, comes after a long period of lull in the boxing arena in the Free State. Our MEC is so passionate about boxing in particular but without neglecting other sporting codes. This move promises to be a launching pad for the development and advancement of boxing in the province.

Programme Director

This initiative must be seen within the context of exposing the youth to the boxing world. Boxing is one of the most important sports which South Africa used to be known about. In the past few years the spirit in boxing has died down due to a number of factors. We will in advance thank Mr. Mabuya (Bra Fez) who has been the pillar of strength behind Boxing development in this province. We are still looking forward to the private sector to pump money into the development of youth in boxing as the mines used to do. Government in partnership with the private sector should pull together to enhance boxing in the province.

Boxing promoters should go out there and identify talents among youth in our communities. These initiatives could lead to us having national champions and world champions that we can be proud of.

Programme Director

Let me pause there by wishing every participant be the winner. Let the participants participate not only provincially but also nationally and internationally.

I thank you.