



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

Private Bag X8611 Groblersdal 0470, 3 West Street Groblersdal 0470
Tel : (013) 262 7300, Fax: (013) 262 3688
E-Mail : sekinfo@sekhukhune.co.za

Office of the Executive Mayor

SPEECH BY MMC OF YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE CLLR KUKIE SEFALA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS FAREWELL EVENT FOR DIMAKATSO KUNENE HELD ON FRIDAY, 2nd JUNE 2023 AT NDLOVU DISABILITY CENTRE, BLOEMPORT, ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Programme Director, Kedibone Balyi.

Ndlovu Care Group Chief Executive Officer Lourens Duvenhage

Our Esteemed Tradition Leader, Chief Baloyi.

Occupational Therapist, Eric Nkoana.

Social Worker, Ruth Chauke.

The Coach, the Teammates, peers,

Bloempoot Community Dance Group and Joris House Beneficiaries.

Morongwa Magongwa who ensured that we know why we are all gathered here.

Our Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Programme director,

We have gathered here today on the second day of the youth month. The month is celebrated because of the 1976 youth in Soweto and all over the country, who waged a recalcitrant struggle against the unilateral introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. The struggle was not only waged against the introduction of Afrikaans but against the UNJUST LAWS OF SEGREGATION of the Apartheid government. The martyrdom and sacrifices made by the 1976 youth made it possible for us to gather here today to celebrate our own achievements. We were excluded to participate in the international arena because of our skin colours and disabilities. The youth contributed immensely to the democratisation

of our country and therefore must reap the fruits of the democratic gains.

Programme director,

Today we are gathered here today to celebrate the triumph of human spirit over adversity. As we celebrate, we draw inspiration from the encouraging words of Mahomet Ali “Impossible is a big word thrown around by small men. Even when you are hardest hit, don’t quit because greatest champion must have an ability to absorb a very good punch”. Dimakatso and her peers worked very hard against all odds to ensure that they reach the sky. She has been selected to represent South Africa in the sport of Bocce in Berlin, Germany. Some of us could only imagine Germany as a far-away Country but Dimakatso is going to Germany. She is not paying a courtesy visit but carrying the hopes and aspirations of all South Africans in her shoulders. She deserves a round of applause.

Programme Director

“Sports have the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, the power to unite the people in a way that little as does. It speaks to the youth in a language they understand. Sports can create hope, where there was once only despair. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination. Sports is a game of lovers” This are the words of the first democratic President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. We are gathered here in unity not only to bid farewell to Dimakatso but also to patriotically wish the team well in the tournament. We hope and trust that they will bring the cup back home from the Special Olympic World Games Berlin 2023.

Programme director,

Sport is a glue that binds the people together. Reconciliation and reconstruction of the country was built on the 1995 Rugby World Cup and the 1996 African Cup of Nations that were hosted by South Africa. South Africa won the two tournaments because the entire country was respectively behind Amabhokobhoko and Bafana Bafana teams. The country is hosting the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023

from the 28th July to the 6th August 2023 in Cape Town. The country is expected to rally behind our netball team to emerge the winners of the tournament. It is our patriotic duty.

Programme director,

In conclusion, I want to personally talk to Dimakatso. We have gathered here because of you. You have come this far because of the support from your peers, coach, Ndlovu care group, and the entire community. You carry with you our hopes and aspirations to Berlin, Germany. Go out there and make us proud. Fare Thee Well Champion with the Philosophical Words of Martin Luther Jnr "The ultimate measure of a person is not where he or she stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he or she stands in times of challenge and controversy." Phalana pholwana e a gola gare ga Mahlalerwa. You never allowed your disability to define you. You have come this far because of your commitment and confidence in your own abilities. Continue to let the world to be your oyster.

On behalf of all the people of Sekhukhune we wish you, your teammates, and the entire South African team to Berlin all the best in the tournament.

Pula!!!