

## MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MEC) OF SPORT, ARTS AND EDUCATION, NORTH WEST PROVINCE



The North West province under my leadership, is blessed to be the host of this fresh innovative and highly prestigious conference platform for the year 2017. Established in 2008 the SASRECON is a conference platform developed by the South African Department of Sport & Recreation under the directorate of Sport Scientific Support Services of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA). SASRECON (South Africa's Sport & Recreation Conference is held on a bi-annual basis and in a different city each time.

SASRECON infuses two elements sport and science thus this is the first of its kind as a sport science conference in South Africa. The events of the conference aim to bridge the gap between science, practice, policy at the same time acting as a forum for the academic sport science and researchers to share ideas of recent programmes and projects.

As the MEC of the department of Education and Sport Development in the North West province welcomes all the participants and it's a great pleasure that they have visited Bokone Bophirima province. Under the fifth administration under the leadership of premier Supra Obakeng Ramoetsi Mahumapelo Bokone Bophirima's vision the triple Rs Rebranding, Repositioning and Renewal with that vision the platinum province wants to promote the brand across the country.

Sport is one of the tool identified to promote the brand. Our theme as a province is "**Bokone Bophirima where champions are made**". The theme is evident that truly champions are made in Bokone Bophirima as we have prominent names within the sporting field like the likes of:-

- Hezekiel Sepeng – Athletics 800m Olympic Games medallist in 1996 & Commonwealth Games
- Phil Masinga – Retired Bafana Bafana player who scored a goal against Congo that qualified South Africa to the FIFA World Cup in 1997
- Andrew Kelehe – 2001 Comrades marathon champion, ten times gold medalist and brother to Gift Kelehe
- Gift Kelehe – 2015 marathon champion and in 2017 obtained position three (3)

The province has produced many sports icons that are celebrated worldwide and it is our wish to see a large number of learners partaking in sport and such platforms.

The conference covers all specialisation areas of sport including natural sciences, social sciences and management studied amongst others. Those who will benefit from the conference include academics, researchers, coaches everyone involved in sport management but most importantly our learners as for others this can pave a way for their future career paths.

The fifth administration of Bokone Bophirima government has observed that obesity is one of the challenges that reduces life span of people therefore the active participation in sport is one element that can increase the life span of an individual. As the department of Education and Sport Development in the North West Province we encourage everyone to participate actively in sport.

Minister, I once more take this opportunity to welcome you and all the guests to our Beautiful North West Province, we wish everyone a wonderful stay hope the outcome and robust deliberations will benefit our nation as a whole.

**S Lehari, MPL**

MEC Sport, arts and Education

North West Provincial Government