

Welcome Address by the Mayor of LIM345 Local Municipality, Her Worship, Cllr Bila TJ during the event of Cultural Extravaganza, held on the 25th day of July 2017 at Bungeni Community Hall at 08h00.

Acknowledgements:

- **Programme Director;**
- **The MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Mme Onicca Moloji;**
- **The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Her Worship, Cllr Florence Radzilani;**
- **Fellow Mayors from our local municipalities;**
- **Speakers and Chief Whips from our Municipalities;**
- **MMCs and EXCO Members present here;**
- **Councillors;**
- **House of Traditional Leaders;**
- **Representatives from Sector Departments;**
- **Municipal Officials;**
- **The very important members of our society, the invited pre-school pupils amongst us.**
- **Community Based Structures;**
- **Media Houses;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Morning!!!

This Cultural Extravaganza is a call “to hear” and “to see” those within immediate borders, to form relationships between groups – young and old – and ideas not often connected, and to be jubilant as one in a special month and special occasion.

Let me at the onset quote the words of **Prof. David Harvey** who said and I quote:

“The question of what kind of society we want cannot be divorced from the question of what kind of people we want to be, what kinds of social relations we seek, what relations to nature we cherish, what style of daily life we desire, what kinds of technologies we deem appropriate, and what visual values we hold.”

We come together at this Cultural Extravaganza, held for the first time in LIM345 Municipality – as an attempt to develop, enhance and sustain relationships for the collective betterment of our communities; but most importantly, we come together to enjoy the beauty of our cultures and sports, while we embrace diversity, which makes us a true rainbow nation.

In line with Prof Harvey’s philosophical exclamation, we have converged to showcase and preserve our commitment to cultural and social abilities and uniqueness as the district of Vhembe and Limpopo Province at large.

Programme Director,

LIM345 Municipality, as one of Limpopo’s highest tourist attractors, places a very high premium on cultivating and deepening its cultural distinction and social networks. We are indeed a magnet for people from all over the world, seeking an opportunity to improve their lives and to enjoy wildlife. We are honoured therefore – particularly by the presence of the MEC – who took time to come to our municipality, and we thank everyone for your presence, participation and contribution to this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased because we meet here during the Nelson Mandela Month, where all South Africans are demonstrating an action of caring for fellow citizens who are underprivileged. We do this in honour of Nelson Mandela. A community builder, a unifier, a struggle hero, and an international icon.

We understand that the ability to care is about the capacity to act and take responsibility. We believe that action and responsibility are intertwined, and that to care means extending a helping hand, because we are all tied together, mutually bound by responsibility, accountability, enforceability and action.

Tata Mandela taught us that a caring nation is one that:

- Present a high quality of life to all its citizens;
- Display a sense of humanity and sharing;
- Provide comfort and dignity for all its citizens; and
- Offer solutions that are communally responsive.

In keeping with the significance of Mandela Day, we need to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so, build a global movement for good, ultimately empowering communities everywhere. It begins with each one of us giving a little bit, and making everyday a Mandela Day.

Let us therefore encourage respect for diversity, promoting dignity, peace, good health and prosperity. Remembering that this is not limited to the 18th of July only.

As I welcome you **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Cultural Extravaganza is indeed a unique opportunity to establish and exchange contacts with various thinkers, thought leaders and experts on issues of cultural relevance and put into

practice the idea of using sports to change the world as prophesied by Tata Mandela.

I am very pleased that we are also joined by the many children from across the Bungeni area. They are the future bearers of our nation – the doctors, teachers and scientists of tomorrow. We have therefore, a responsibility to instil in them, a culture of oneness, of love and compassion, so that they grow as great leaders of tomorrow.

We owe it to them to correct all the wrongs and preserve the beauty that remains of our nation. Let me conclude by indicating that as a nation, we are faced with challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequity. In addition to those, a new demon has recently manifested. Our people are dying, women and children are sodomised and perpetrators are walking freely with us on the streets every day. We need to form a unit and stamp out these challenges for the sake of our children and their children.

Programme Director,

On behalf of the people of LIM345 Municipality, please feel warmly welcomed to LIM345 Local Municipality – a municipality where the sun shines.

I thank you!!!