



**MINISTRY
SPORT AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X869, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: (012) 304 5000, Fax: (012) 323 8426
Private Bag X9149, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: (021) 465 5506/7/8/9, Fax: (021) 465
4402

**REMARKS BY MS. TOKOZILE XASA (MP) MINISTER OF SPORT
AND RECREATION SAON THE SPECIAL RECOGNITION
BREAKFAST OF BANYANA BANYANA. CAPE TOWN, WESTERN
CAPE.**

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2019

The President of SAFA: Dr Danny Jordan

The leadership of SAFA in the Western Cape

Sasol representative: MsNoziphoMbatha

The DG of Sport & Recreation: Mr Alec Moemi

The BanyanaBanyana Coach: Desiree Ellis

Captain Janine and your BanyanaBanyana Team

Honorable Guests, ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

On Sunday the 13th of January 2019, our country woke up to sad news that our CHIPPA is no more, Phil Masinga had seized to breath. The

news dampened the spirit of the nation, memories of Phil Masinga and his 1996 Golden Generation were invoked. The nation suddenly remembered it was Phil Masinga who booked our ticket to the 1998 World Cup in France by scoring that thunderous goal against Congo. It was therefore befitting as the Minister of Sport in South Africa to pay respect to the family of this great Legend. Yesterday I was in Stilfontein at the Masinga family house to pay homage to his wife, children, mother and his siblings.

Our warrior could not defeat cancer while he was alive but his family has requested us to use his death as a teaching to many South Africans to continue to test and check their wellbeing.

Today we are here to recognize excellence, like the class of 1996 that took us to the World Cup in France, your generation will forever be engraved in the hearts of South Africans. You will be a generation that will forever be remembered for taking us to the Women's Football World Cup in France.

Coach Desiree we are here not only to celebrate you as the best women coach in Africa but for breaking the patriarchal ceiling. Like many women in our Country you had to work extra hard to prove that women too are capable of producing great results. **Desiree Africa's coach of the year** that sounds great. You deserve that title.

Thembi you have won the hearts of many soccer loving people in our country, congratulations once more for being elected the Africa's women

player of the year. I think BafanaBafana can do with some tips on how to score goals, as we face Libya in March.

We are here to celebrate you, not only because you were selected as the team of the year during the Sport Awards in Bloemfontein last year but for having inspired and uniting a nation, reminding us that we all have a collective claim in this country, that we are all South Africans.

As a team you have firmly placed the issue of gender inequality on the agenda, through your work you have asked uncomfortable questions both to us as government as well as corporate South Africa.

Today we must start a journey of responding to the outcry of the country. As the Department of Sport & Recreation we will in the next three years avail **R5million** towards the Women's Premier Soccer League. This is a challenge to Corporate South Africa to come to the party and support women sport. We hope this league will produce more role models like yourselves.

I equally challenge South Africans to support this league and women's football by going to the stadium starting this Saturday where BanyanaBanyana will be playing against World's number 7 Netherlands here in Cape Town then Sweden, World's number 9 on Tuesday the 22nd.

As you prepare for 2019 World Cup, I want to assure you, the nation will be behind you. As the department of Sport & Recreation will lead from

the front in activating South African's support. As we bid our farewell to you, we will equally launch a "**BANYANA FRIDAY**" campaign.

Once more thank you for being such great role models and speaking to the collective Conscious of the Country.

End.