



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

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**SPEECH ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS SPORT NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP BY MS. TOKOZILE XASA (MP) MINISTER OF  
SPORT AND RECREATION SA AT STANDARD BANK ARENA,  
JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG.**

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**MONDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2018**

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MECs of Sport in our Provinces

Officials in the Department of Basic Education

Officials in the Department of Sport & Recreation

Representatives of the City of Johannesburg

Programme Director, DG Mr Alec Moemi

Our Guest and learners

Good Evening

Tonight we have reached the beginning of the end, this is the culmination of a long competitive process that started in classrooms, in townships, amongst regions, clusters, districts and provinces. Tonight both teachers and learners can be proud to have reached this level, and

I equally hope this is the beginning of greater things for our learners as young athletes. This championships offer us an opportunity to showcase the best talent that is available in our schools across the length and breadth of South Africa.

On the 29 of May 2018, myself and Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Schools sport. We signed this Memorandum knowing very well that schools sport is a critical priority and a bedrock for sport development in South Africa, it is the only place we can nurture and develop the character and talent of our learners. School sport has been shown to build on children's early experiences by the development of physical and motor capabilities to lead active, healthy lives, providing learners to have fun and be active reinforcing the desire to make physical activity lifelong habit, helping to understand and overcome barriers to physical activity, informing and equipping and motivating healthy lifestyle choices, improving relaxation, concentration and mind-set in school, motivating enrolment and staying in school because of sport and combating low esteem and delinquent behaviour.

Therefore the main purpose of the MoU is to:

- address the challenges that prevent the establishment of a well-coordinated and seamless school sport system in our country as a critical factor in the development of young people of our country;
- ensure that institutional structures are in place to implement and monitor the delivery of a school sport system;
- regulate access and delivery of school sport for all learners, irrespective of ability, across all schools based on the principle of equity and access;
- clarify roles and responsibilities of all role players for both delivery and funding;
- ensure that all relevant role players delivering school sport should adhere to this plan;
- Optimise the allocation of funds by the Department of Sports and Recreation and the Department of Basic Education in order to fully realise the delivery of School Sports for all learners.
- Provide guidelines for a competitive School Sport Championship capable of creating the athletes development pathway.

In order to succeed we need stakeholders' co-corporation. We need SGBs to allocate equitable budget for physical education and school

sport activities. Principals to ensure that timetable curriculum oriented Physical Education is delivered by appropriately qualified and registered educators in line with the related legislative framework. Talent identification is paramount to the development of talented learners that come through the system of school's sport, therefore it is paramount that we train the trainers, our passionate educators. Their passion for sport must be accompanied by relevant training.

Schools sport can only be delivered in full where:

- *Access to infrastructure and resources and organised participation opportunity and*
- *Skills and Capacity development and improvement in all areas on and off the field of play*

Are orchestrated and aligned.

We must reverse the legacy where only 10% of the bulk of 25 000 schools have access to structured, organised and resourced sport participation opportunity. We must fundamentally transform the story of school sport in our country not only for its sake but that of our country. Sport has continued to play a critical role in social cohesion and nation building for our country, this has been recently demonstrated by the

performance of BanyanaBanyana who have qualified to play in FIFA Women's World Cup in France next year and were runner's up in the African Women's Championship held in Ghana recently.

Not only BanyanaBanyana has brought our nation together but has highlighted the importance of fighting patriarchy in society. Where women still get paid less than men in all sectors of our society, as a nation we must welcome this debate as it further assist us to make one step forward in creating a non-sexist society.

As the department of Sport & Recreation we look forward to the implementation of digital migration by our sister department, the department of Communication and Telecommunication, this will allow the national broadcaster the SABC to have many channels and we hope they will cater for sport channel where we can showcase the sporting talent in our nation. This will have a significant contribution towards mass participation in schools sport and will allow talent scouts to sport talented athletes.

I am more than convinced that we are well on our way to reverse the legacy of Apartheid that created imbalances on access to, and involvement in school sport amongst previously disadvantaged schools

in townships as well as in rural areas. This year's schools sport national championship represent a leap forward towards that agenda.

Let me wish all teams well as they participate in all 10 sporting codes and also hope long lasting friendship will be made in the coming week by learners, you must compete but above all you must have fun.

I must also take this opportunity to thank University of Johannesburg and Wits University including Ellis Park for availing their facilities. Our partners the department of Basic Education, Lovelife and the City of Johannesburg.

I must also thank Provinces, technical officials, and officials of the two departments on a job well done.

I thank you