

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME MATHABO MOKAPO ON THE OCCASION OF THE WARD 30 SPORTS DAY AND THE NATIONAL POLICE DAY, CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2007, WELKOM**

Programme Director  
Honourable Councillors  
District Commissioner of the SA Police Service (SAPS)  
Superintendent of the SAPS  
Members of the SAPS  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I derive pleasure in the fact that I have been invited to grace this important occasion, which is the Sports Day for the people of Ward 30. Most importantly, the Sports Day has been synchronized with National Police Day.

Cabinet declared 27<sup>th</sup> January as the date on which a National Police Day for South Africa will be celebrated annually. The main aim of marking National Police Day is to reflect on the successes and achievements of the SAPS. Also the intention is to restore the nation's confidence in the future of safety and security in our country.

The celebrations are also meant to show appreciation for outstanding and loyal performance by police officials and civilian members of the SAPS. In the same vein, the celebrations pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of securing safety and security for all.

The joint event that we are witnessing today, which aims to mobilize and conscientise the community about fighting crime, dictates that we should reflect on the subject of crime.

The crime levels that are prevalent in our society can be traced back to the impact of apartheid social and economic policies coupled with the use of police services then, as instruments of repression.

Since the advent of our democratic breakthrough, crime has continued to bedevil our young democracy.

Since 1994 a lot of work has been undertaken to transform the SAPS and other institutions of the criminal justice system, in an effort to safeguard the safety of the nation.

Despite all our concerted efforts we acknowledge that progress will not be achieved in the prevention and eradication of crime without addressing socio-economic conditions that ferment crime. Hence the broad national effort to defeat poverty through accelerated and shared growth.

It is our contention also, that the police services and government agencies cannot fight crime alone, as it requires the involvement and active participation of all communities and all sections of society.

Our response therefore to this scourge, should be comprehensive, effectively coordinated and well considered.

The ANC President, Mr. Thabo Mbeki when he delivered the policy statement on the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ANC, announced a campaign that the organization will be embarking upon during the course of 2007, in efforts to build safer communities.

The campaign will entail mobilization of communities to assume leadership in the struggle for peace, stability and safe places to live. Also, the campaign intends strengthening partnerships between communities and the police service.

In the same breadth, the campaign intends to reinvigorate Community Policing Forums, so that they become credible sites for coordination, monitoring and popular participation.

It is my view that this campaign is critical in enhancing the fight against crime and I want to urge members of the community to support it.

My message to criminals is that they will become desolate, as members of our communities all want peace and quality life.

We must intensify our efforts to ensure that criminals face the full might of the law by working with the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies.

I wish to convey a message of support to members of the SAPS who are in the frontline in the fight against crime.

At this point, I wish to applaud members of Ward 30, who saw it befitting that today we should engage in this campaign, under the theme “ Do sports, don’t do crime.”

In line with the important task of ensuring that we curb the scourge of crime prevalent within our communities, it is important for us to encourage communities particularly young people, to engage in sport.

This is informed by the understanding that participation in sport has a lot of positive spin offs, as it saves one from engaging in social ills, like drugs, alcohol and crime.

It is important for young people to engage in sporting activities, so as to keep healthy and also amass the new opportunities that abound since the advent of our democracy.

Participation in sport also enhances our capacity to become a great sporting nation. Involvement in sport is not only about competing but also serves as a platform for social interaction, enjoyment and leisure.

In conclusion I wish to commend the partnership that manifested itself in the prosecution of the tasks that revolved around the initiation of this campaign.

**Thank you.**

**CLLR MATHABO MOKAPO  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR**