

**Remarks by the MEC, Reginah Mhaule at the occasion of the Choral  
Eisteddfod on 12 June 2015**

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Programme Directors, Mr. Robert Gideon Chiloane and Mr. Simon K Zamisa

Adjudicators

Members of Senior Management

Representatives of the School Governing Body

Principals

Educators

Learners

Representatives from the media

Community Members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Sanibonani,**

We have just celebrated the month of May dubbed the African Month and as South Africa and Mpumalanga we have made our voices heard on our stance against Xenophobia as we are all united on our essence of Ubuntu and Pan Africanism.

We love our beautiful continent and its people and heritage and we are indeed proudly African. I am Happy that this programme has been opened with both the African and National Anthems.

We need to embrace the African Anthem as directed by the President of the country, Mr. Jacob Zuma by teaching and singing it at schools as a sign of our allegiance to the continent of Africa.

It is not by co-incidence that we presently celebrate the youth month and also unite as the school community of the province to showcase our voices and agile dance abilities in the 2015 leg of the South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod.

We have over the years seen and experienced that talent has no age restriction as our young primary school learners have proved beyond doubt that talent resides in them as well and they are equally endowed as their much older counterparts.

It is really a privilege for us to hear and witness the spectacular presented through these inviting heavenly melodies.

The greatest achievement in the whole process is that our learners acquire the skills and knowledge presented to them by Eisteddfod.

I am quite aware that there has been a lot of cognitive stimulation arising from their involvement with music.

It is on that note that I want to express my gratitude to parents and teachers for guiding these wonderful learners through the ropes of music and dance while sacrificing their time and resources as they invest in the talent of our learners.

It is thus clear to all of us that our task at hand is not just honour this eisteddfod but to also enliven the spirit and soul of Enoch Sontanga, SBP Mnoyiwa and RT Caluza to our learners so that the veins of South African compositions is kept well nourished.

We need to raise up future composers and musicians of the same quality if not superior than those forbearers.

The South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod presents a unique opportunity to all our learners and schools irrespective of their backgrounds to showcase their talents.

I am also grateful that schools from rural communities have also been well represented here.

Let me thus make an appeal to all the learners participating at the 2015 South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod to emulate our world-renowned artists and cultural workers as they input and improve on our heritage as a nation.

It is only you who can take charge of the situation and portray the richness of the cultural heritage of our country as you tell past, present and future cultural narratives while recording the history of the nation in the process.

I must say that I also marvel at the passion and enthusiasm that is shown by those of us who come each and every day of the Choral Eisteddfod to witness and cheer our learners on stage.

This is no small matter and I wish you to continue with the good work as you scream, shout and cheer, albeit in an orderly manner as the choral eisteddfod requires discipline from the side of both participant and audience.

I want to congratulate all learners and schools that have been selected to perform at the 2015 South African School Choral Eisteddfod for the splendid work done and wish all of you the best of luck.

Let me also thank the organising committee for making this day possible. All judges and officials, your work is equally important and thank you for making our leg of the Eisteddfod so successful.

Go on, make us proud and raise the Mpumalanga flag very high as you have our full support. We look forward to you being crowned as the 2015 South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod national championships.

**Nginyabonga**