

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MS. MAKHOSAZANE MSILELA, MPL, DURING THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF 013 SUMMER BLAZE AT THE EMNOTWENI ARENA, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Thursday, 19 September 2024

Programme Director;

My colleague in the Executive, MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Ms. Leah Mabuza;
Founder of the 013 Summer Blaze, who is also the owner of the Majestic Ebukhosini Resort, Mr Zakhele Mbatsane;

Members of the media present

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Sanibonani! Good evening

1. Programme Director, we are humbled to have been invited to come and give a message of support during this auspicious occasion of the launch of the **Annual 013 Summer Blaze event**, which will take place later this year.
 2. As the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, represented by our Public Entity, the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, we are proud to be associated with the 013 Summer Blaze Activation. We support this initiative because it boosts local tourism as it attracts many people to our beautiful Province. The event contribute immensely to the economy of the Province.
 3. Since its inception in 2022, the event has played a critical role in promoting the TriLand brand, as it has been able attract people from even the neighboring countries of Eswatin and Mozambique.
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4. As the Department, we will continue to support any initiative that brings along many tourists to our Province. The tourism sector create jobs which in turn propel economic growth and reduce unemployment.
5. We applaud and congratulate the founders of 013 Summer Blaze for continuing with this Activation. This event plays an important economic, cultural and tourism role in our beautiful city of Mbombela, and Mpumalanga in general.
6. Programme Director, it is a historical fact that during the hosting of this event, accommodation in the city of Mbombela is always full. This reality does not only boost the tourism sector, but it goes a long way in creating job opportunities and further contributes towards economic growth.
7. Without a doubt, the economic spin-off associated with the hosting of the 013 Summer Blaze event is unparalleled. As a result, our taxi industry has benefited and will continue to benefit during this year's event, given the large number of people who will require transportation to Mbombela Stadium from their respective locations.
8. However, as a responsible government, we urge the Owners of this initiative to adhere to licensing conditions in case liquor will be sold at their event. Unfortunately, we cannot allow any disregard for the law during such events.
9. On the same breath, we also urge patrons who will be attending the Activation, to enjoy their alcoholic beverages responsibly. If abused, alcohol can even ruin people's lives and destroys families.
10. As I conclude, I want to indicate without fear of contradiction that the MTPA is ready and eagerly awaiting to give those who will be attending the event a memorable experience in Mbombela during the hosting of the 2024 013 Summer Blaze event.

I thank you and please enjoy the rest of the evening