



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATEMENT

To: All media

Attention: Sport & News Editors/Journalists

Date: 12 December 2019

Getting Gauteng Active: MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation urges for more physical activity

Following the launch of the 2019 Community festive season games and the recent Mandela Remembrance Walk and Run, MEC Hlophe says her department's wants to get Gauteng Active as part of promoting healthy lifestyles. She says this will encourage young kids to develop interest and be identified for their talents.

"We want Gauteng people to be active. It pays to invest in prevention. Every rand spent to promote healthy eating and physical activity saves the Provincial Government money in the cost of caring for people with chronic diseases. We encourage each person must to take part in one physical activity or another, including creative arts such as music and dance. Our programmes are inclusive, even targets pregnant mothers, youth and the elderly to get everyone involved", says MEC Hlophe.

For over a decade the Gauteng department of sport has worked together with organisers including local sports structures to ensure exciting action during the festive and Easter seasons.

The games have seen Gauteng being turned into a playing field with more sport and action across the province. What initially started as football matches in certain areas has grown to include various sport including netball, running, cricket, volleyball and more. Hundreds of young ones will take to the field in paraphernalia donated by the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation including sport gear, balls, nets, bats and more.

Some of the current beneficiaries include former players such Innocent Mayoyo, Maimane Phiri, Joseph Makhanya, Pollen Ndlanya and many others.

"We'd like to see young people, members of the community and families attending the local community games within their areas", further says MEC Hlophe.

Meanwhile, to grow community games structure and strengthen development, the department is looking at introducing a new championship tournament which will see winners of the Festive community games in the various sport taking on the winners of the Easter community Games. The Champ of Champs Community Games Festival will be held in the middle of the year from 2020.

The Community games are also sanctioned by the Gauteng Sports Council.

Ends.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation

