



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR
MINAH BAHULA ON THE OCASSION OF THE
SEKHUKHUNE MEN AND BOYS PARLIAMENT HELD
ON THE 14th NOVEMBER 2025 AT SDM MUNICIPAL
CHAMBERS.**

Programme Directors, Honourable Speaker, Cllr
Kgwediebotse Chego,

Speakers and Chief Whips of Council in attendance
(District & Local),

Members of the Mayoral Committee and Councillors,

Chairperson of Civil Society Forum and Men Sector, Mr
Mohube Masha,

Representatives of Sector Departments and Civil Society Organisations, (SAPS, Health, and Social Development),

Friends from the Media,

Ladies, Gentlemen and All Invited Guests.

Programme Director,

We are meeting here today under a progressive banner of Men and Boys Parliament. Historically the parliament was convened only for men. Recently the National Boys' Parliament was launched as an initiative that provides a platform for young boys to discuss issues affecting them, voice their concerns, and propose solutions. The boys' parliament is an extension of Men's Parliament and the idea to combine the two parliaments is an applaudable one. The combination is going to be beneficial to our communities as it is effectively teaching and shaping boys' characters at a young age. Baswana bare "Mohlare o kobja o sale o monanana wa oma o a hlaba". The general meaning and wisdom conveyed by this proverb is that it is easier to teach a child and instil good morals, values, and discipline while they are young and

impressionable. Attempting to discipline or guide them when they are older and already set in their ways becomes much harder and can be met with resistance, against the tone and the spirit of the parliament's theme "Building a Healthier and better man for tomorrow".

Honourable Programme Director,

Gender based violence and femicide is a serious problem in our country. We are daily attending court cases in support of women victimised by men. Today's parliament must propel men as the perpetrators of GBVF to engage in an open, honest and introspective conversation that will eliminate GBVF in our lives. It is not raining but pouring in our district, a 28 year old uncle was arrested in Schonoord on the 12th March 2025 for an allegation of raping his 8 years niece, a four months pregnant woman was brutally killed by his boyfriend in Leeufontein, a 70 year old woman was murdered by his biological son in Mochadi village, a 70 year old woman was brutally murdered by a nephew in July at ga Maila village, a Jane Furse RDP man allegedly raped his 17 year old biological daughter who is doing matric, and a 14 year old girl was

allegedly raped by her 31 year old Priest at Rakgoadi village. Women are also the perpetrators of GBVF, a Jane Furse Hospital Professional Male Nurse was allegedly murdered by his wife and thrown in the dam at ga Mabintane village, and this Wednesday on the 12th November 2025, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her own mother because of the late father's estate. The moral fibre of our society has reached an all-time low. The need for an honest conversation cannot be overemphasised as the cases given are just a tip of an iceberg.

Programme director,

A healthy mind in a healthy body, suggests that taking care of one's body is crucial for mental well-being, and vice-versa. Engaging in physical activities like sports, running, or even walking can clear your mind, improve your mood, boost energy levels, help reduce stress and improve mental strength. We grew up participating in various sporting events and were not victims of lifestyle diseases. We have a revolutionary responsibility as community leaders to revive sports in our communities.

Remember an idle mind is a devil's workshop. Boys are naturally active and energetic, and their energy must be correctly channelled.

Programme Director,

South Africa is a country with a history of division, blacks and whites. Blacks were oppressed by their whites' counterparts. Black women suffered triple oppression of race, gender and class. They were black, women and economically lower in standard. We also contributed as black men to perpetuate oppression against black women. We treated them as hewers of wood and drawers of water. We must all work tirelessly to eliminate gender-based divisions in the country. Systems that promote divisions will not address the socio-economic challenges of the country. We do not aspire for a Matriarchal (Female Control) system as much as we condemn the Patriarchal (Male Control) system. We are inspired by the Preamble of the 1996 Constitution of South Africa as it endeavours to (open quote) 'Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights' (close quote). We

want to create a just society. We have a responsibility to revive the moral fibre of our society as Men and Boys. We must be heard communicating positive messages to our communities. We must be at the forefront of the struggles to combat alcohol and drug abuse, HIV and AIDS Campaigns, and campaigns to fight against Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

Programme Director,

In Conclusion, I want to send special words of appreciation to all men who ensured that this historic parliament materialises. I hope and trust that the resolutions that are going to be taken today will fundamentally change our behaviour and conduct as men especially in promoting a caring, non-violent and non-sexist society.

I thank you.