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Department:
Economy & Enterprise Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

SUPA DRIFT NATIONAL COMPETITION TOOK MAHIKENG BY STORM



Rolence Molapisi in his drift car got a roaring applause from his Mahikeng fans

Mahikeng is about to be known for great and unique things. The capital city of North West Province hosted the 2nd Supa Drift Series from 26 - 27 September 2014, in the parking area of the Mmabatho Stadium. The event which ignited excitement for the people of Mahikeng, families and visitors drew a crowd of almost 6000 people which were able to view the spectacular drifting show and also visit the flea market and food stalls which were set up by local SMME's.

The Supa Drift Series had 30 professional drifters participating from Cape Town, Durban, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and other areas around the country.

"This is the second motor sport initiative we are seeing in the province, we want to rebrand, renew and reposition Mahikeng as a vibrant and event filled Capital City and attract more visitors to the Province," said the MEC for the Department of Economy and Enterprise Development, Wendy Nelson.

The event was held in partnership with the Bakgatla ba Kgafela Tribal Council and Ultrapex Communication with the aim of creating a tourism footprint and growth of small and thriving businesses in the North West Province. The family orientated weekend was full of fun and entertainment and benefitted both local small businesses as well as the enthusiastic drifting fans.

Nelson applauded Rolence Molapisi, a young and local qualified drifter and professional racer, to have partnered with the Department to bring such a great and innovative event in the Province. Molapisi a young and good will product of Mahikeng saw the initiative as a flagship for tourism with great economic spin off for the province.

The words uttered by Molapisi "my dream started four years ago right here at this stadium parking lot. I have travelled a long journey to get where I am now and excited to share my dream career with local young people and urge them not to view this kind sport as a farfetched dream, said Rolence. He further said that he is in a process of opening a drifting club to develop emerging drifters by offering training and share skills to young people who want to venture into this scare motorsport career. Rolence thanked his professional mentor, Mr. Mike Skelton for introducing him to this prestigious sport and giving him the platform to bring such initiative to Mahikeng. Mike said that he is thrilled by support and commitment shown by the MEC and her Departmental staff for making this event a roaring success. "My team is overjoyed by the spirit and love they received from the people of Mahikeng and looking forward to bringing the event again next year and this time the venue would be the Mahikeng Airport. We are in the process of building and transferring the skill to Rolence so that after 3years he can own and operate the franchise and be able to host the event on his own" concluded Mike

MEC Nelson highlighted that with this kind of sport event; the Department wants to create young entrepreneurs who can come up with unique and fresh ideas which will contribute to the value chain of growing the economy of the province. The Supadrift Series is one of the activities which the Department is venturing into that is aimed at creating awareness and great ambition for local products.

The competition ended with a tough fight for pole position with Paulo Gouveia taking 1st place, Jason Webb taking 2nd place and Shane Gudzeit taking the 3rd place. The event was preceded by visits to nearby schools and motor-cate as part of creating hype for the event. Learners were taken through a short demonstration of what will be happening and were urged not practice illegal drifting on the streets. MEC expressed her gratitude to the people of Mahikeng and other role players to have supported the event and encourage them to continue to have the spirit of **"Saamtrek and Saamwerk"** to reposition Mahikeng.

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Mr. Gaoage Molapisi pledged his support towards the event and said that his Department will partner with Economy and Enterprise Development in the hosting of this event next year.



The top three spots went to (from left to right) Shane Gudzeit taking 3rd place, Paulo Gouveia taking 1st place, Jason Webb taking 2nd place



The fans were the stars of the show

