



Well wishes for Banyana Banyana for 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

Banyana Banyana's presence at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup sends a powerful message that women can achieve anything they set their minds on, says Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Zizi Kodwa. "I want to commend Banyana Banyana for the indomitable spirit they have displayed throughout their careers. Their courage, talent and commitment has made us all proud. May they continue to rise above all obstacles, may they continue to break barriers and redefine what is possible," the Minister said on Friday in Pretoria.

He made these remarks during the announcement of final 23-woman squad to represent South Africa at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. The reigning African champions, South Africa, together with Morocco, Nigeria, and Zambia, are the four African teams set to represent the continent at the World Cup in New Zealand and Australia from 20 July - 20 August 2023. "South Africa is with you every step of the way. As a country, we do not only hope you only come back with a trophy but we also hope that you come back with experience and knowledge that you can share with all of us. "I encourage

you to embrace every moment, and never lose sight of the power you hold to inspire the future generations. "I wish you all the success, happiness and fulfilment in your upcoming endeavours. Go forth Banyana Banyana and continue to shine your light in the world," Kodwa said.

He expressed his deepest gratitude to each member of the coaching staff, who have nurtured and guided the team. "Your expertise, dedication and commitment have played a vital role in shaping these talented athletes into the formidable force that we have today. Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed and we are immensely grateful for the impact that you have made on the lives of these athletes," the Minister said.

Banyana Banyana Captain, Refiloe Jane, said being selected as the captain of the team and representing the country at the World Cup is an honour and privilege. "I also want to give credit to the players who have been selected to go to the World Cup. We know what lies ahead. It is not going to be easy but we have put in the work. We have showcased what we are capable of. Going into the World Cup, we will leave no stone unturned," Jane said.

Citizens urged to participate in imbizo

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Thembu Nkadimeng, has called on residents to play an active role in determining the future of their communities by participating in the District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo programme.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will be joined by leaders from all three spheres of government this coming Friday the 30th June during a Presidential Imbizo, hosted by the Alfred Duma Local Municipality in the Uthukela District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal. The imbizo will be held at the Oqungweni Soccer Field, under the Sithole Tribal Authority.

Government leaders will interact with residents on service delivery challenges, as well plans for the development of this district. "Join us and play your role in being an active and responsible citizen. The imbizo is an opportunity for the whole of government and all of society to work together towards a brighter future by unlocking blockages to integrated services delivery in line with the District Development Model approach," Nkadimeng said.

"The DDM Presidential izimbizo are an expression of the ethos of a participatory democracy that is accountable to the public and affords communities direct interaction with leaders from the three spheres of government. For a democracy to be effective, government must constantly communicate with the citizens of the country, as they have a right to know what government and other public sector bodies are doing. "Guided by the DDM principles, local government is responsible for providing basic services to our

citizens such as human settlements, water, electricity, sanitation, etc., working cooperatively with the national and provincial spheres," COGTA said.

The DDM Imbizo is held under the theme, 'Leave no one behind', because it is more than just an event, rather a chance for communities to engage with the President and leaders across the three spheres face-to-face to express concerns and receive real time responses.

"The Constitution of South Africa mandates the three spheres of government to work together to promote the well-being of all citizens and to ensure that public resources are used prudentially. To this effect, remarkable progress has since been registered since the first Presidential Imbizo that was convened in the North West province to unlock blockages to service delivery," CoGTA said.

The Minister said the DDM Presidential Imbizo confirms Municipalities as the backbone of the country's governance system – and any instability in this sphere has a ripple effect on the provision of basic services. In keeping with the theme - Leave no one behind - the Presidential DDM Imbizo will be preceded by various ministerial events constituting a build-up programme to 30 June 2023.

The build-up events will ensure that all communities and stakeholders are engaged where they stay on their concerns. Mobile services from critical Departments such as Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), municipalities and many more will also be onsite on the day to assist communities. – SAnews.gov.za

Public warned of bogus online schools

Umalusi says it is seriously concerned about the mushrooming of bogus online schools, as well as the increase in the reported cases of fake certificates being sold to unsuspecting members of the public. In a statement, Umalusi said it is currently working with the South African Police Service (SAPS) on various cases that concern unaccredited institutions that have admitted students into non-existing programmes.

The quality assurer said such institutions circulate fake Umalusi accreditation certificates or fake emails purporting to be accredited

by Umalusi. The CEO of Umalusi, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, said that some institutions issue students with fake letters bearing the Umalusi logo, which are purported to be legitimate registration letters.

In addition, the institutions make students write exams using old question papers accessed from the websites of provincial education departments. "To date, Umalusi has not accredited any online school to offer any of its qualifications. In the same vein, Umalusi is not aware of any such institution having been registered by any provincial education department," Rakometsi

said. Umalusi urges the public to visit its website (www.umalusi-online.org.za/enquiries) to verify the accreditation status of an independent school or a private college.

Similarly, members of the public are warned against buying fake certificates that are advertised through various social media platforms.

"Umalusi is the only institution in South Africa that is legislatively mandated to issue certificates of learner achievement in respect of the NSC, SC(a), NC(V) levels 2-4, N2-N3, and GETC: ABET. No other body or person is allowed to issue any of these certificates.

"The public is warned that the practice of selling and buying fake certificates is a criminal offence, which is punishable by law.

Umalusi condemns this fraudulent activity in the strongest possible

terms. All employers in the public and private sectors are advised to verify their current or future employees' qualifications through the agencies that Umalusi has contracts with.

"Their names are available on the Umalusi website (www.umalusi.org.za). Simply click on the Certification & Verification icon.

The verification service is reserved for the qualifications / certificates that are issued by Umalusi," Rakometsi said.

The public is further urged to report any case that involves operating an illegal institution to the relevant provincial education department.

The selling and buying of fraudulent certificates can be reported through the tollfree number:

(0800 408 409) or email address (umalusi@whistleblowing.co.za).

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