

OR TAMBO GAME BEGINS IN EARNEST

Lejweleputswa District Municipality in collaboration with the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and Local Municipalities will host the District O.R Tambo Games this coming Saturday at Hoopstad.

Through these games we have seen how players being selected to represent the district at different categories at Provincial, National and International levels. The games have grown into a big sporting event in the district.

The games are being organised and played from ward level through municipalities until the provincial finals. Only best players selected get an opportunity to represent their districts at the finals.

O.R Tambo Games started at the level of 69 wards, contesting in a league format. History tells us that the best leaders are from humble beginnings. Athletes of different ages taking part in the O.R Tambo Games participate in different sport codes:

From town level, all winning teams progressed to Local Municipality level and, subsequently, to District Municipality level.

All Municipalities in the District will converge in Hoopstad from the 9 September to compete in 3 different sporting codes namely i.e, Netball for U/21, Rugby for Females and Males U/23 and Football for Females and Rural Football for Males. The games will play in a round robin system and the log leaders will then play in the semi- final and finals.

The Executive Mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality Cllr Sebenzile Ngangelizwe said that he really appreciates what the participants are doing at the games, "it takes a lot of courage and perseverance to achieve all that participants are doing. We know that it is not an easy road for the participants but they are able to get good results. It's a signal to municipalities that employees who are participating in the games are truly committed, in ensuring that the legacy of O.R Tambo remain intact. This is platform for scouts to identify talented players and possible future stars.

The Executive Mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality reminisces that OR Tambo engineered one of the most sophisticated liberation struggles that saw a coordinated expression of the mass movement, underground units, armed struggle and international solidarity. For many decades, he was in the forefront in providing leadership for both the external and internal structures of the liberation movement against apartheid oppression and repression.

President OR Tambo is respected throughout the world as an embodiment of the highest values. He is recognised as an eminent leader who succeeded in mobilizing his

people and the international community to the national cause of South Africa and to the international cause of fighting racism, xenophobia and the consolidation of an international human rights movement.

As the major driving force behind the unity of the progressive forces in South Africa, he advocated for radical political changes in South Africa through a revolutionary overthrow of the apartheid regime and the reactionary Bantustan political systems.

The agenda led by President OR Tambo reinforced struggles against racism, colonialism and oppression which were fought elsewhere in the world and his efforts also determined the balance of political and economic forces within the global political and economic order.

He was an intellectual of note, who reinforced continuing discursive engagement, analytical description of the different phases of the liberation struggle and provided clearer understanding of the advances and political achievements of the liberation movement.

Layers of political, military, cultural and economic leaders under the tutelage of President OR Tambo were developed to occupy strategic leadership positions, and they are still inspired by the teachings and influence of this great African leader.

The South African government holds in high esteem his works as a negotiator, peace-maker, calm force and a brilliant strategist. Thus the National Order of Companions of OR Tambo bestowed by the President of South Africa, to foreign citizens who have promoted South African interests and aspirations through co-operation, solidarity, and support.