



# Gert Sibande Chess

Affiliate of CHESSA and Mpumalanga Chess

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To the Gert Sibande Chess Community

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who had the confidence in us to steer this ship that is our region. I think I speak on behalf of all the Exco members when I say we are greatly honoured and privileged to be entrusted with such a huge responsibility. I am confident that by the end of our term we would have achieved all we wish to, and we would have succeeded in winning over even those who may have had some doubts. At the end of it all, I would like our term to be defined by unity, where our love for this royal game transcends all our differences and we are all driven by one common vision of inclusivity, growth and excellence.

On a personal note, I always strive to be as effective and efficient as possible. Starting on a new journey is not easy and mistakes are bound to happen, but I believe that with the strong team we assembled, we shall easily overcome any challenge. I have no intention of owning this position and will only be willing to serve to the satisfaction of those who have chosen me. If at any stage they indicate to me that I am failing them, I believe the correct thing will be to submit to their will, should they wish to exercise their power and demand a better servant.

In a nutshell, the vision I wish to see come to fruition is as follows;

## Inclusivity

Personal hardships, and a poor background should not be allowed to deny a child an opportunity to reach for the stars, and to realise his/her goal. This is a matter that is very close to my heart and I will be going all out to ensure that Chess is not defined by class and privilege, but by skill and ability. This will mean fundraising, amongst other things, will not be optional, but will have to be undertaken with vigour. Every child deserves a fair opportunity to shine, no matter how poor they are.

## Growth

With my involvement with schools chess, I have come to appreciate the great amount of untapped talent that exists in our mist. We will be missing the mark if we run as a separate entity, without making an effort to bring schools chess onboard. I am of the opinion that if we can work hand in hand with schools chess structures, we will unleash something tantamount to a Tsunami on the other Provinces, and they will not know what hit them. The talent that we have can back up my statement. The more players we have to choose from, the more likely we are to achieve greatly.

## Excellence

One of my main aims is to make us competitive, and not to just participate. We will therefore have to embark on a lot of specialized training for high performers and a lot of grassroots development work. I strongly believe we can match the other Provinces if we really focus on the right form of training.

I wish to invite each and everyone of you on this exciting journey, to be part of a vision that holds the seeds of greatness.

Your humble servant

Leisa Mphosi (Mr)