

Thabazimbi Local Municipality Women's Day

Speech Delivered by Mayor PA Mosito

Thaba-Park Stadium

24th August 2012 at 11:00

Programme Director

Madam Speaker

The Chief Whip of our Municipality

Fellow Councillors

Management and Women Employees of Thabazimbi Municipality

Dumelang

It is indeed to address you once again on this very auspicious occasion – during Women's Month.

It is on this month when twenty one thousand women said 'enough is enough' and led by four stalwarts, Charlotte Maxeke, Hellen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams – De Bruyn marched to the Union buildings to deliver a petition against the dreaded pass laws for Black people.

It is the strength and boldness of women of this calibre that we celebrate.

Women who with stood the might of the Apartheid Regime and said we will not be dominated and we will use our power to ensure that we achieve our struggle and attain our freedom.

Today the bold action of these women stalwarts is aptly coined in a phrase, "Wa'thintha bafazi wa'thintha umbokodo" – You strike a woman, you strike a rock.

Programme Director

Today our struggle as women has a different face. Today our struggle as women is to occupy our rightful place in society. Today our struggle as women is to demand an end to women and child abuse.

Today our struggle as women is to say, emphatically, “NO” to nepotism and corruption. Today our struggle as women is to take the helm of leadership and maintain the democratic state we have established.

Programme Director

As women in South African society, we need to take the lead in developing South African society:

- We have to create economic opportunities for women and enter the main stream of the economy.
- We need to create job opportunities for women and also establish skills development programmes to ensure that we have skilled and competent employees at the workplace.
- We need to ensure that the health and social needs of our communities are addressed and that the children and aged are given the necessary attention.
- We need to defend ourselves against gender-based violence and continue our campaigns and make every day a day against women and child abuse.
- We need to increase our awareness and fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge that is a menace to our society.
- We need to focus our energy on the development of rural women and ensure that we create viable opportunities for them to earn a decent livelihood.

Programme Director

I must warn against lip service being paid to our aspiration. Every year we continue to mention the aspirations and needs of women but every year very little is put into action. Let us take the five priorities of government, localise it, create our own programmes and implement them.

Let us say NO to lip service and create realistic and achievable programmes for women. We have the power, capacity and resolve to create the change. Let us do it now.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Dr Nkosasana Dlamini Zuma on her remarkable achievement of becoming the Chairperson of the African Union. She is indeed an exemplary figure for us as women to emulate.

Programme Director

Finally, I believe in us as women to make a change in society. However, I believe that we will not be able to achieve what we aspire for, if we do not make a concerted and determined effort to achieve them. To achieve this it is not only my responsibility but the collective responsibility of all of us as women to make that change and create those opportunity.

I hope that all of you today will someday reach the desired aspiration that you set out to achieve. Remember, 'You are the architect of your own destiny' and it is only you that can make the phrase, '***the sky is the limit***' a realisation.

I thank you.