



THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY HON. MAYOR OF TLM, CLLR TOKKIE SWANEPOEL DURING THE 50 HOURS AGAINST ADDICTION EVENT

DATE: 28 MAY 2022

VENUE: PARKING OF OLD STANDARD BANK

TIME: 10:00

Programme Director,
Organisers of today's event,
All participants present here,
All Protocol observed!!!

Good morning!!! Goeiemiddag!!!!

Thank you very much for inviting me to this important gathering. Ladies and gentlemen without you, our plans to reduce the harm caused by substance abuse and drugs, would amount to nothing. As things stand this is no easy task. The prevalence of addictive substances in our country and our municipality has fuelled serious social ills.

That is why we need to be steadfast in our dealing with substance abuse, especially if we are to tackle drugs usages.

As the Municipality we have a responsibility to tackle the drug abuse and usage, but all this has to be done with all stakeholders and security agencies including your good self.

We will continue to put pressure on the South African Police Services to assist in dealing with all drug users and sellers.

We recently had a Municipality's Integrated Development Plan Representatives Forum where SAPS was part and issues of drugs and noise in our town and townships were raised. They promised to assist where they can, but we need to work hand in glove with them to fight this monster. Government or the municipality has lots of mandates and cannot do this alone but through partnerships with people like you, all can be done.

This means our efforts must be coordinated. We need to act together in a strategic and targeted way, building more partnerships along the way. Indeed this partnership between you and us can do more.

I am also happy that some of the people that were trapped in drug usage or addiction are able to speak here today. We thank you for been out of that. To our youth, please refrain from this drug things. Please concentrate on your education as you are the future leaders.

To our church elders, you have a duty of praying hard and praying against this monster. We need people like you amongst our society. Our partnership should go a long way. If we are to truly make a greater dent, and rapidly reduce the harm caused by drugs addictions or substance abuse, we need to adopt a whole of society approach. This means our efforts must be coordinated. We need to act together in a strategic and targeted way, building more partnerships along the way. Indeed this partnership between the stakeholders, SAPS, Churches and the Municipality is a prime example of the power of adopting this approach.

Ladies and gentlemen, in concluding here today, allow me to also on behalf of our municipality and the council to say **NO** to the use of drugs. We strongly condemn the use of drugs within our municipality. We will as the Municipality work with partners and all stakeholders to see to it that drugs are eradicated at all costs.

I thank you