



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR JULIA LATRA MATHEBE ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING MANDELA DAY, MABALEDI CENTRE, MOOMANE VILLAGE EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE THURSDAY, 21ST OF JULY 2022.

Programme director,

In the past three days we were celebrating the Nelson Mandela International day by simply devoting to public service. On the 18th July every year individuals around the world are asked to mark this Day by making a difference in their communities.

It is so because this giant walked among us with a furnace of dedication to change the lives of all South Africans; this he did with an incredible LOVE for his fellow humans.

Throughout, his deeds and words bear witness to the possibility of a better live for all. In 2008 Tata Madiba asked a very pertinent introspective questions to you and I when he said, I quote:

“Today we should all ask ourselves: What have I done to improve the surroundings in which I live? Do I litter or do I protect my surroundings? Do I expect everything to be delivered to me or do I work with my local councillors to create a better life for myself and my community?”

Almost 14 years later Madiba's questions are still relevant, even more so.

The effects of covid-19 have taken us aback. It poses the greatest risk to the most vulnerable: those living in poverty, older people, and people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

Entire regions that were making progress on eradicating poverty and narrowing inequality have been set back years, in a matter of months.

The economic outcome of the pandemic is affecting those who work in the informal economy; small and medium-size businesses; and people with caring responsibilities, and who are mainly women.

This whole situation calls for a review of strategies under this new normal.

This year's theme for Mandela Day correlates with the era. **"Do all you can, with what you have, wherever you are!"** To me these words are indeed universal, let alone eternal!

Programme director,

Tata Madiba was already inspired to act no matter how aged he was, his background and his colour.

As an Executive Mayor, myself and many other leaders must be inspired as well. Symbolical of 67 minutes of a service in particular...

Being symbolic, our actions affirm to the partnership to work together with traditional houses in Sekhukhune; especially as lead by women; envisioning the plight of the vulnerable, women, children, and the disabled among us.

By this example we invite everyone with a caring heart to aim their help at most to the plight of the vulnerable groups. By practicing this, not only as a show but a habit..., you will be walking the same steps with the honourably and decently giant.

In guiding such habits Tata Madiba once added, I quote: "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."; unquote.

To that effect Madiba added again, I quote: "We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference." Unquote.

Let us do more to assist the elderly, the struggling and vulnerable persons. This will go a very long way in building a better society as well as building ourselves.

On a lighter note, let me challenge young people for their energy and longevity: If you are around 30 years of age today, try rendering yourself regularly at least for 67 years so that you would live to 97.

Programme director,

Today is not a day for speeches, it is a day to work, to give back, to lend a helping hand to those in society that are less fortunate. In that case I am honoured to be spending my day here at Mabaledi Centre with all these beautiful elderly and disabled persons. We are here to help with refurbishing the centre by painting it afresh and fixing all this broken doors and windows.

I thank you.