

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR. EN MAKHABANE AT A FUNCTION TO CELEBRATE WOMEN HELD ON FRIDAY 08 JUNE 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Programme Director

Fellow Councillors

Municipal Officials

The women of Delmas

It is an honour to address you on this important occasion to celebrate our women. This imbizo is aimed at making sure that our women play a meaningful role in the upliftment of our country. To make sure that our women are in the main stream of our economy.

The struggle for women emancipation must be accelerated at all cost.

Statistics indicate that women are in the majority in South Africa however the representation of women in key or strategic positions both at

government and private sector are a course for great concern.

We must make sure that affirmative action policies such as Employment Equity, Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment, etc are adhered to so as to reap their benefits.

Women are also in the majority in terms of unemployment. We must find ways of creating jobs rather than looking for jobs. We know that some cooperatives have been struggling to get funding however as government we will always assist where we can. This is obviously dependant on the availability of resources.

As women we also suffer from a syndrome called "PHD" (Pull him/her down syndrome). For us to succeed, we must learn to support and complement each other more and more. We

should not celebrate and rejoice when we see one of us faltering.

Women should also come together to fight social ills such as rape, women & child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse.

We have also realised that criminals target women & children as soft targets. We are calling upon women to stand up and organise themselves into community watch groups to fight crime.

As government we believe that crime is crime hence it knows no colour or race. I must take this opportunity and say as government we condemn the recent brutal killing of the two residents (*baby Wiehan Botes and his caregiver, Ms Magrietha de Goede*) of Delmas however we are also concerned with the manner in which the marchers handled themselves on the matter. The

whole thing was blown out of proportion hence it eventually became a racial matter.

As I am closing, I would like to say "let us work together for us to be able to realise the full emancipation of women"