

**ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MORRIS MATABOGE
DURING MANDELA DAY**

18TH JULY 2018

SKIERLIK IN THBAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Programme Director,

Mayor of Thabazimbi Cllr Moselane,

District Speaker Cllr Sarah Lamola,

District Chief Whip Cllr Staff Tsebe,

Chairperson of the MPAC Cllr Sam Montane,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

**All Councillors present from both WDM and Thabazimbi Local
Municipality,**

Members of the School Governing Body,

The Principal of the Mme Mamoliki and teachers,

**Acting Municipal Manager Mr Tloubatla, Management and
officials from the Waterberg District Municipality,**

Members of the Media,

Community members,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning! Thobela.

We are gathered here today to celebrate the birthday and to mark the centenary (100 years) of the life of our nation's founding father Nelson Mandela under the theme: **“Be the legacy”**.

This celebration is a major milestone in the incredible story of Nelson Mandela and our nation's journey.

Nelson Mandela left a permanent mark on our society having laid the foundation for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. His legacy lives on in our commitment to ensure a just and fair society for all, including the rights to dignity and freedom of expression.

To celebrate Madiba's life, we need to stay true to his ideals, including his unwavering commitment to justice, equality and a non-racial South Africa. All South Africans have a responsibility to promote freedom and defend our democracy in honour of Madiba's life-long commitment to these ideals.

Ladies and gentlemen, during his inauguration on 10 May 1994, Madiba outlined his vision for South Africa and he said: **(I quote) “We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity — a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.”(Unquote).**

Nelson Mandela is our guiding light in the type of society we are building and people we aspire to become. The centenary celebration reminds us of Mandela's unwavering commitment to justice, equality and a non-racial South Africa.

In this centenary year of the life of Nelson Mandela we pay tribute to one of Africa's greatest sons for the role he played. And today we remember Madiba as the struggle stalwart, freedom fighter and first democratic president of South Africa.

In marking the centenary of Madiba's life we have an opportunity to reflect on the legacy and values he had left with us. Through his values and dedication to the service of humanity we remain inspired to become a united and prosperous nation. No matter how small the action, let us change the world for the better - just as Mandela did.

Through our actions we can continue the powerful legacy that Madiba had entrusted to us of a just and fair society for all. We must pursue the dreams and aspirations of Nelson Mandela as we continue to respect the basic human rights; and remain committed to the rule of law and Constitution.

Working together we can move South Africa forward to overcome the challenge of unemployment, poverty, inequality and diseases.

Programme Director, in the spirit of Madiba let us support the most vulnerable within our communities and beat the scourge of poverty. Through our compassion and respect for each other, we can show our commitment in building a better society for all.

Government through its pro-poor policies such as social protection and security programmes including social grants, free primary healthcare; no-fee paying schools; provision of free housing and free basic services help improve the lives of South Africans.

Today social grants are the cornerstone of government's effort to fight poverty benefiting up to 17 million South Africans.

Madiba loved children and worked tirelessly for a better life for them especially those who were left vulnerable. He wanted all young people to have access to a first-class primary education and quality healthcare that protected them against preventable diseases.

Programme Director, after this session, we are not only going to dedicate sixty seven minutes to community work at Tswelopele Primary School, but two hours as we advance the legacy of Madiba. The legacy of primary education first.

What we shall be doing today is also done across the continent and the globe as Tata Mandela was one of the world's most admired statesmen. He was a central figure in the struggle for liberation from the unjust apartheid system to an inclusive democracy.

Ladies and gentlemen, you should have had the presentation by both the Ward Councillor and Principal of Tswelopele Primary School. What they presented depicts real poverty experienced in this area.

The question of why this area was chosen for contributing our service to Tswelopele Primary School becomes apparent as well.

We also thank the Management of Anglo America who has been ***“Good Samaritans”*** in partnering with us in the fight against the scourge that has stricken this area.

We are very thankful of your contribution and wish this partnership can last forever in benefiting our previously disadvantaged communities.

In conclusion, Ladies and gentlemen, today is not a day of speeches, ours is only to dedicate time to the work at hand, to heed to President Ramaphosa call of **“Thuma mina”**.

Let`s please get down to the business of the day.

KE A LEBOGA!!!

