

**ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP CLLR TLOTLANANG
MOGOTLANE, THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF WATERBERG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE 2014 NELSON
MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY EVENT HELD ON THE
18TH JULY 2014 AT DIRA O DIRELWE DROP-IN-CENTRE IN
MODIMOLLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AT 9H00**

Programme Director,

Mayor of Modimolle Local Municipality Cllr Kgaretja Lekalakala,

MMCs and Exco members in the District,

All Councillors present,

Reverend Keagile,

Municipal Manager Mr Mabotja and his Management Team,

Sponsors,

Senior officials from the Department of Correctional Services,

Officials from our municipalities,

Management of the Drop in Centre led by Mosehle M.R.

Representatives from Forever Resort,

Representatives from African Bank,

Members of the Media,

Community Members present,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Thobela... Good Morning.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be part of this great occasion. We are gathered here today to celebrate Madiba's birthday and the 18th July will for ever be recognised as the Nelson Mandela International Day.

Every year on this day, South Africans together with the international community honour our former President and international icon Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was politically active and gave 67 years of his life to the struggle for social justice and to make the country and world a better place. On Mandela Day people in South Africa and all over the world, in the workplace, at home and in schools are called upon to do their bit for at least 67 minutes of their time that will make a difference for a life time, especially among the less fortunate.

Mandela Day 2014 focuses on three themes, namely: **literacy, shelter and food security**. This year's event also marks 20 years since Mandela became President of South Africa, ending three centuries of white rule.

We embrace Madiba's values and honour his legacy through humanitarian acts and initiatives that acknowledge his never-ending quest to change the world for the better.

Programme Director, the overarching objective of Nelson Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower communities everywhere to **“ Take Action; Inspire Change and Make every Day a Mandela Day”**

President Jacob Zuma, in his State of the Nation Address announced that this year's Mandela Day would be celebrated by working to clean up South Africa.

The President encouraged all South Africans to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to clean our cities, towns, townships, villages, schools and beautify every part of South Africa. We are gathered here today to do just that.

Nelson Mandela International Day was officially adopted by the United Nations in November 2009 as an annual international day.

The United Nations noted Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity and acknowledge his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, the idea to do something that will benefit those around us on Nelson Mandela International Day was inspired by Mandela himself at his 90th birthday celebration in London's Hyde Park in 2008, when he said: **"It is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands now."**

Today the Nelson Mandela International Day campaign asks that individuals, groups and corporates pledge 67 minutes of their time on 18 July, and every day thereafter, to give back.

This year's Nelson Mandela International Day is particularly symbolic for South Africans as it is the first one since former president Nelson Mandela's passing. It offers South Africans and the world, an occasion to honour the ethos of the late former President Mandela in the year that also marks South Africa's 20 Years of Freedom.

Programme Director, Nelson Mandela has been one of the greatest moral and political leaders of our time. He is an international hero who embarked on a lifelong dedication to the fight against injustice and racial oppression.

Nelson Mandela International Day is dedicated to the service of our fellow human beings by actively helping to change their circumstances.

It is a global call to action for people everywhere to take responsibility for changing the world for the better. No matter how small the action, the aim is to change the world for the better-just as Madiba did.

Ladies and gentlemen, 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 African have a responsibility to promote freedom and defend our National Democratic Revolution in honour of Madiba`s lifelong commitment to these ideals.

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. Government remains determined to ensure that all South Africans, without exception enjoy all the rights enshrined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Programme Director, we have pledged as a nation under the leadership of Tata Mandela that never again shall one person be oppressed by another. We must pursue the dreams and aspirations of Madiba as we continue to respect the basic human rights, and remain committed to the rule of law and Constitution. We must all make it our duty to translate our Constitutional guarantees into reality for all South Africans to enjoy.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everybody who made this event a success. A special thanks to our sponsors, namely

- African Bank
- Forever Resort,
- DIY Building Company in BelaBela and
- Cash Built

We really appreciate the donations you have made for the success of this event. Our partnership should grow so that together we can provide quality service to our people and create a better life for all.

To the Department of Correctional Services, we are humbled by your call of duty to provide support on weekly basis to this centre. Keep up the good work.

Ladies and gentlemen, working together we can move South Africa forward to overcome the challenges of unemployment, poverty, inequality and disease. Now is the time to dedicate our efforts to the cause that Tata Mandela fought for all his life.

I THANK YOU.