ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYORDURING THE DISTRICT MORAL REGENERATION MOVEMENT

20 JUNE 2014- VAALWATER

The Chairperson of the District Moral Regeneration Movement, Pastor Mpete,

The Mayor of Modimolle Local Municipality, Cde. Meisie Lekalakala

Mayors present,

Speakers and Chief Whips,

Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders,

The Provincial Secretary of the MRM, Mr. Joe Segwapa,

The Chairperson of NICSA Limpopo Bishop Motsoare

NICSA National Represented by Bishop Matebesi

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Members of the Special Project Portfolio Committee led by MMC Mogotsi,

Councillors,

Traditional Leaders and Traditional Health Practitioners,

Members of the Moral Regeneration Movement from both locals and the district,

Officials from the Waterberg District Municipality led by the Acting Municipal Manager Mr. Sole,

Community Based Organisations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon, Dumelang!

Programme Director, It is my honour and privilege to be part of this event and address an august house of this magnitude.

Our Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Bill of Rights is not only the cornerstone of our democracy and the protector of every living citizen`s right in the land, but it is also the moral nerve centre of our values as a nation.

The Constitution features prominently in our national awareness as our most valuable asset and as pre-eminently a core moral force around which South African society must organise itself in the quest for moral renewal.

The Constitution further defined us as people with common citizenship, and forms a critically important moral window for our society. South Africans, from all walks of life and from different sectors, have been willing to form a partnership and mission to deal with the moral decay afflicting our society. We have and should be uniting around a common goal, that of creating a morally and an ethically driven society.

Programme Director, this event takes place during the Youth Month, an eventful month which reminds us of the 1976 Soweto uprisings.

The commemoration of the Youth Month this year marks the 38th anniversary of the 16 June Soweto uprising and is celebrated under the Theme ***" Youth moving South Africa forward"***

While the youth of 1976 fought for freedom and the creation of a democratic state, today`s youth activism is directed towards successfully tackling the challenges of combating poverty, unemployment, HIV and AIDS, personal development, economic freedom and development of the country.

Census 2011 portrays South Africa as a youthful nation with the average age of the population of 25 years old and the third of our population of 52 million under the age of 15 years.

Even though a youthful nation is generally regarded as a positive development, viewed in against the background of the country`s unemployment statistics, it is a cause for concern considering youth make up of 4,5 million of the unemployed.

We are therefore encouraging the youth of today to stay away from drugs and alcohol abuse and focus solely on their education as it is said that "Education is the cornerstone of live"

Programme Director, the origins of the Moral Regeneration Movement date back to a meeting in June 1997 between the then President Nelson Mandela and key South African Faith Based Organisation leaders to discuss spiritual transformation.

At that meeting, the then President Nelson Mandela spoke about role of religion in nation-building and social transformation and the need for religious institutions to work with the state to overcome the spiritual malaise (sickness) underpinning the crime problem.

These are the words of President Nelson Mandela during that engagement; I quote ***"Our hopes and dreams, at times, seem to be overcome by cynicism, self-centeredness and fear. This spiritual malaise sows itself as lack of good spirit, as pessimism, or lack of hope and faith. And from it emerge the problem of greed and cruelty, of laziness and egotism, of personal and family failure. It both helps fuel the problems of crime and corruption and hinders our efforts to deal with them"*** close quote.

Mandela then called religious leaders to become actively involved in a campaign, which would subsequently become the moral regeneration initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen, Moral Regeneration is multifaceted and cuts across all of our interactions, be it in home, at the workplace at school etc.

It is therefore befitting that as a district we have at least a day dedicated to Moral Regeneration during which we, in our various communities recommit ourselves to the effort of building communities grounded in positive values.

Programme Director, the ultimate objective of the moral regeneration movement is to assist in the development of a caring society through the revival of the spirit of Ubuntu/Botho and the actualisation and realisation of the values and ideals enshrined in our constitution, using all available resources and harnessing all initiatives in government, business and civil society.

It is for this reason that a democracy such as ours, which has emerged from the apartheid ashes, should be founded on sound moral values that will inculcate in each of us a sense of national pride, oneness and commitment to the common good.

Our past as a nation is nothing to be entirely proud of, yet it could teach us a lesson or two as we shape a society in which a bright future for all under the sun is guaranteed. I do concur that the past cannot be instructive by virtue of it haunting us everywhere we are - we have to select out of it what is good for the present and what we will never again want to see from it in our present and future.

We have to tell ourselves, for example, that racism will never again be part of our lives. We have to tell ourselves that violence and murder will never again be part of our lives.

We have to tell ourselves that fraud, lies, dishonesty and mistrust, can never be part of the new South Africa. We have to convince ourselves that women, children, the physically weak and the poor will never again be taken advantage of.

Unless we actively embrace the good, the positive, and inculcate it in our children and their offspring, these evils that are characteristic of our past will always be part of our society.

The fight against crime, for example, is a futile exercise unless we help our people to make the right decisions from the start, that is, to distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong.

How far have we gone to make this movement a moral fibre of society? Have we as a district made this movement vibrant to achieve what the constitution requires us to do?

Programme Director, the Waterberg District Moral Regeneration Movement was officially launched in November 2007. The three year term lapsed in 2010 and the second term ended in 2013.

Currently all local structures have been established with the exception of Mogalakwena due to political challenges.

The first assignment of the established structures was to focus on the establishment of the district structure which was fulfilled.

The newly elected District Moral Regeneration Movement is led by Pastor W. Mpete and constituted by the following members:

1. Deputy Chairperson - Z. Mahlabe
2. Secretary - D. Motshegoa
3. Deputy Secretary - L.R. Seanego
4. Treasurer - Pastor D. Thema
5. Additional Member - B. Galane
6. Additional Member - M.P. Gololo

It is our hope and believes that newly elected leadership of the district, will do better than we currently doing to popularise our movement within the district.

The leadership that was elected to lead the movement need to be based on legitimate power- whereby people follow because of trust, respect and honour (which is the preferred and most sustainable form of power).

As the Moral Regeneration Movement in the district we are expected to be seen leading and participating in some of the following programmes:

- ❖ 16 days of Activism against women and children abuse
- ❖ HIV and AIDS awareness and related matters
- ❖ Gender issues
- ❖ Programmes of Older persons and children
- ❖ Widowhood
- ❖ Youth programmes
- ❖ Disability programmes and many more.

Chairperson the revival of the movement is of critical because moral regeneration is a top priority for all of us in all walks of life and all areas of responsibility.

As we celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy, we also take into cognisance the achievements made by our ANC led government, in restoring the moral fibre of our society.

We also take into cognisance the challenges we still face as a country in advancing and deepening the moral values of our society

The former President of the Republic of South Africa, Cde. Nelson Mandela in his inaugural speech said: "***Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world."***

This is hardly enough to inspire commitments to the idea of a moral charter. Likewise, dwelling on the evils of the present will not be a force for change and transformation even though we do need at times to name them.

The strategic stance of the movement is to be at the centre for collective activism on moral renewal issues, positioning itself as a body that coordinates moral renewal activities in our country in an effort to build an ethical, moral caring and just society.

These can only happen through:

- Activating the build of congruency between ethical values and behaviour and;
- Championing and initiating dialogues that impact positively on our communities

Programme Director, let me use this opportunity to congratulate Pastor Mpete and the new leadership of the District MRM for their assistance in carrying out this huge project, without their commitment, wisdom and hard work , we would indeed be left wanting.

I congratulate them for being elected new members of the committee and secondly for organising the successful Moral Regeneration Event.

We hope the good work done will continue for the duration of their term of office.

"Together we can take South Africa Forward"

I THANK YOU!!!