

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP CLLR
TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE DURING THE DISTRICT
HERITAGE DAY EVENT HELD ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER
2014 AT MODIMOLLE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
CENTRE 10H00 IN MODIMOLLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

Programme Director,

Mayor of Modimolle Municipality Cllr Lekalakala and other
Mayors present,

Chairperson of the District Local House of Traditional Leaders,
Kgoshi Taueatswala,

Chief Whip of the District Cllr Morumudi,

Speaker of the District Cllr Monama,

Area Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services,
Mr T.K. Mthombeni,

Members of the Mayoral Committees in the District,

All Councillors present,

Municipal Managers in the District Mr Mabotja,

Senior Management from Sector Departments and Municipalities,

Officials from sector departments and municipalities,

Inmates and Entertainers,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

THOBELA!! SLOCHILE!! AVUXENI!!

Let me from the onset, take this opportunity to appreciate your presence to this important gathering. We are meeting here today at the end of Heritage and Tourism Month to celebrate the rich heritage and cultural diversity of our country.

Programme Director, the theme for 2014 Heritage Month is:

”Celebrating 20 years of Democracy: Tell your story that will Move South Africa Forward”.

From 1994 to date, we have good stories to tell as we move our country forward.

The 20 Years of Freedom celebrations provide us with a platform to talk about our journey from repression to liberation and life under democracy. Storytelling forms part of our rich cultural heritage. We should reinforce it by narrating the historic events which were part of the evolution of our country.

We are no longer voiceless and can now tell our stories about the many heroes and heroines of the liberation movement. The role that our heroes and heroines played brought about the freedom that we enjoy today.

2014 Heritage Month will advance our rich historic narrative, poetry, visual arts and songs, and will reinforce our collective memory of the struggle towards promoting a national identity. Today we are gathered here to do just that.

Through talking about our good and bad experiences, we can start to address the social divisions in our communities which still persist today.

Our stories will create an understanding that while our respective journeys to freedom might have been different, we are united in our love for the country and share the passion to move the country forward.

Through sharing our stories, we will realise that we all subscribe to the same basic set of values such as mutual respect, democracy, freedom, equality and justice.

For this campaign to be successful, South Africans from all ages, races, genders, culture groups, sexual orientation and social status have to reconnect with the past in order to shape our future.

It is important for adults to share memories with children so that our youth can develop an appreciation of the country's journey towards freedom.

Programme Director, people learn and are influenced by the place and the people around them. In a country like South Africa many people have learned from stories told to them. These stories carry information and ideas about life and living and shared customs, traditions and memories passed from parents to children.

Celebrating heritage is part of our effort to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. Let us use this day to move towards that vision of national unity and cultural harmony.

Programme Director, everyone should be proud of their heritage. We should look back with pride as a nation at our peaceful transition from a divided society to a stable democracy which is one of our most important achievements in our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we should as a nation, irrespective of our shortcomings or challenges, preserve these traditions and hand them down to the next generation. Our heritage is the springboard that will help brand South Africa as one of the greatest theatres of struggle, as well as to illustrate our victory over apartheid and our world-recognised model of reconciliation and nation-building.

Programme Director, government will continue to ensure that together we build a nation that encourages dialogue, fosters social cohesion and celebrates its heritage. Great progress has been instrumental in ensuring that our cultural institutions portray South Africa's diverse history.

Prior to 1994 our museums and monuments were accessible only to a few and reflected the experiences and political ideals of the minority.

Since 1994 Government has ensured that many institutions like museums, historical sites and monuments reflect the history and experiences of all our citizens.

South Africa has made significant progress in transforming the apartheid state into a democratic one founded on the values of human dignity, non-discrimination, non-racialism and non-sexism, the rule of law, and universal adult suffrage as enshrined in the Constitution.

South Africa Twenty Year Review 1994–2014 states unequivocally that millions of our people have been lifted out of poverty. Millions now have access to water, healthcare, education, housing and many other basic services which they did not have before 1994.

The economy enjoyed a real recovery in growth and investment post-1994, with far more robust and stable growth than in the previous 30 years. When looking back over the past twenty years, all South Africans can be proud of the progress we have made as a young nation

Our rich liberation heritage must be used to draw visitors to South Africa especially in Waterberg and will also serve to ensure that we protect our common heritage and advance a national heritage, which is inclusive of cultural diversity.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the partnership and relationship we enjoy with the Department of Correctional Services and all other departments. We partnered with you during Nelson Mandela Day at Dira-o-Direlwe Drop-in Centre. Keep up the good work.

To the inmates, I say this is not the end of your life. Make sure that when you get out of this facilities, you start a new life and never again to come back this place. There is a future for you outside this walls because we are busy moving our country forward. You must only come back to this place when you have good stories to tell.

By telling good stories, together we move our country forward and build social cohesion and a better life for all South Africans. And let the games begin.

I THANK YOU.