

Speech: High Tea event to be held on 30 August 2012, Heidelberg Town Hall

Programme Director,

Honourable MEC for Education, Barbara Creecy

Member of the Gauteng Legislator, Mrs Nelisiwe Mbatha Moerane

Speaker of Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr Business Modisakeng

MMCs

Councillors

Former Speaker of Sedibeng District Municipality, Mme Mamokgosi

Ms Julia Paris from the University of Johannesburg

Sedibeng East Department of Education, District Director, Mrs Dorah Moloi

CEO of Sun Media, Mrs Justa Niemand

Librarians from the Gauteng South Branch Committee

All our guests from different Sectors

Women of Lesedi Local Municipality

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all and welcome you to this occasion.
You all look beautiful!

It is an honour to welcome you on the 56th anniversary of the 1956 Women's march to Pretoria, in protest against pass laws.

We do note as women that the challenges faced by women today are different from the ones of 1956.

What is similar is that just like them, we are women.

We still have that courage and wisdom to stand up for what we believe in, so that we may deal with any situation that comes our way.

Good initiatives such as the one from Sun Media and other organizations do not go unnoticed.

As soon as they heard what happened, they immediately responded to the situation.

Challenges like poverty, unemployment and social ills such as violence are facing us and we are the ones who should take a lead in trying to resolve them.

The purpose of today's event is to converge women under a common purpose of celebrating the gains made by our forebearers and also extending a helping hand in saying:

Yes, there have been challenges in our community which resulted in the loss of property, particularly the library, which is at the core of Teaching and Learning.

It is a big challenge for our learners and the community at large.

As the Municipality, working together with our District Sedibeng, for the August month 2012, we have been busy delivering projects which are meant to uplift our women.

There has been Men's Dialogues, A Rural Upliftment project at Langzekeogat and Women in Prayer.

This High Tea Event is the last one.

It does not necessarily mean we should stop the focus on women. We will continue striving to improve the lives of our women.

This year's theme;

'56 Years of Women United against Poverty, Inequality and Unemployment';

is posing a challenge to all of us and we have the responsibility to respond positively.

I would like to pause briefly to allow us to have a sense of what we have been through as the community of Lesedi.

(PLAY- Arthur)

On behalf of Sedibeng and Lesedi Council I welcome you to this great occasion.

In the words of our icon, Former President of South Africa, Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela:

'There can be no keener revelation of a Society's Soul, that the way in which it treats its children.'

Thank you