

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, AMBASSADOR CHUPU MATHABATHA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE
CAPRICORN DISTRICT.

09 August 2018

Programme Director;
Mong-mabu, Kgoshi Matlala;
Members of the Executive Council;
Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr. John Mpe;
Executive Mayor of Polokwane Local Municipality, Cllr. Thembi Nkadimeng;
All Councillors present today;
Our Director-General, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng;
Representatives of Women's Organisations;
Leaders of various political parties;
Ladies and gentlemen:

I greet you in the revolutionary name of our mother, Mama Albertina Sisulu.
We have come here to join you the people of Tibeng in saying that 'Malibongwe igama la makosikasi'.

We are here to celebrate our National Women's Day.

This day is about celebrating all our mothers, our loving wives, our sisters and our beautiful daughters.

As we celebrate and commemorate this important day, we remember brave women and courageous women such as Mama Charlotte Maxeke, Rahima Moosa, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie Williams, Dora Tamana, , Ida Mntwana, Bertha Gxowa, Florence Matomela and many others.

These and many others are the women who fought bravely and tirelessly to bring apartheid government to its knees. We salute them, and vow to honour their legacy by continuing with the struggle for the total emancipation of women.

This year we celebrate our Women's Day under the theme that says 100 Years of Albertina Sisulu, Woman of Fortitude: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward.

Mama Albertina Sisulu was a prominent leader of the ANC, the ANC Women's League, Federation of South African Women and the United Democratic Front. She is one of those fearless women who have been at the forefront of our struggle for liberation.

In celebrating and honouring women like Mama Albertina Sisulu, we must make a commitment to join hands in fighting against the oppression of women.

We must make a commitment to fight against gender-based violence.
We must join hands to fight against the emotional abuse of women.

We must fight against the physical abuse of women

Together we must commit ourselves to fight against the ballooning rape culture in our society.

We must raise our voices against the killing of women and children in our communities.

Together, we must call on the police to:

Improve their response time to incidents of domestic violence, including the abuse of children;

Desist from the tendency to turn back victims of alleged abuses because they think that there is no sufficient case –issue of sufficient evidence is for the courts to deal with and not the police;

We must also call on the police to desist from the tendency of not arresting perpetrators because of their social status in the society.

We should call on the SAPS to dedicate enough resources including manpower to tackle domestic abuse

We also call on the courts to refuse bail to perpetrators of domestic abuse as in most cases such perpetrators go on to kill their spouses whilst on bail.

We further call on the court to impose harshest sentences to those who are found guilty of abusing women and children.

We are saying this because the levels of violence against women and children are terrifying and unacceptable.

Programme Director;

Part of what we should do as government and community-based organisations is to end the economic dependence of women on men.

Many women tolerate and remain in abusive relationships because their abusers are their providers – they depend on the same abusers for their clothing, food and housing needs.

Our government is committed to work with women in order to break the historic barriers which have denied women opportunities to provide for themselves and their families.

As I have said, researchers have proven that one of the things that trap women in abusive relationships is the economic abilities of their abusive partners.

Most women find themselves in a situation where ending an abusive relationship will

most likely result their children losing their homes and financial support. Often, these women pay with their lives. This has to change.

It is for this reason that the government is championing programmes and initiatives that are aimed at ensuring that women play a meaningful role in the economic life of the country.

We believe that an economically liberated woman stands a better chance to reason and take action against abuse.

We also challenge private sector companies to join government in these noble efforts to ensure the economic liberation of women.

We know that many private sector companies have not yet fully embraced the imperative of women leadership.

We want to see women as CEO of big companies.

We want to see women serving on the boards of big corporates which are doing business in our country.

Programme Director;

Part of the problem that continues to confront us as government is the tendency by fathers of not providing for their children.

We cannot have a situation where a father is forced through a court order to support his own children, this is unacceptable.

In some cases, we have kids who receive child support grants whilst their fathers have decent jobs and are driving around with flashy cars, wearing designer clothes and drinking dated alcohol.

This is not only embarrassing, but criminal at the same time.

Such fathers must be exposed, named and shamed. The law must also deal with such irresponsible fathers.

Programme director;

Today is a day of commemoration and celebration. There is indeed a lot to celebrate.

Our country has achieved a lot since the dawn of democracy.

Many opportunities have been opened for women, although there is still much to be done.

Our government has created a number of laws which promote and advance the rights of women.

We have laws such as

The Employment Equity Act, - which ensures that women are equally represented in various opportunities, including at work. In government we work very hard to ensure that at least 50% of our employees are women. We also ensure that women are represented at management level.

The Prevention of Unfair of Unfair Discrimination Act also ensures that women are not denied opportunities or ill-treated simply because they are women.

the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment ensures that government business opportunities and tenders are also given to women and people living with disabilities.

Today we have a woman as a Speaker of Parliament and a number of Cabinet ministers as women. In fact, South Africa is ranked amongst the highest when it comes to recognition of women leadership and upliftment.

In this province we have more female MECs than male MECs.

A significant number of councillors in this province, including mayors are women.

Together we have achieved a lot, but much more still needs to be done. All we need is to continue working together, as communities, and as government.

In conclusion, let me also take this opportunity and say; Happy Women's Day to all women of our province and the country at large!

Wathint' Abafazi Wathint' imbokodo!

I thank you!