

Remarks of MEC VR Shongwe on the celebration of Mandela Day in Sabie Thaba Chweu Municipality on the 07th August 2012.

The Acting Executive Mayor of Thaba Chweu Municipality, Clr Patience Shima

The Head of Department (DCSSL) Mr Thulani Sibuyi

Members of Mayoral Committee and councilors in our mist,

The General Manager, Ms Nonsundu Ndonga

The Management of Social Development

The Management from DCSSL,

Officials,

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am well aware that Mandela month is in July and we are already in August. We are living the ideals of icon of the world and we are confirming that Mandela Month can be in July, but doing good to the less privileged and underdeveloped is a daily thing.

We are saying as a Department, everyday is a Mandela Day, irrespective of the month of the year .

Today we have come to clean Masiphakamisane drop-in centre and handover Desks and chairs at Theresa Willis Home of Hope here in Sabie.

Madiba, a son of the soil, a men who dedicated his entire life in the upliftment of the oppressed and the less privileged, is the world icon that got all of us working and playing our part to celebrate his life today.

The World, through the United Nations General Assembly took a resolution to recognize the work that the man who was born in Mvezo village be celebrated world wide. The resolution of the UN says it all.

In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

The day is about recognizing Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities.

It acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

Program Director, this is a remarkable man. He surprised the apartheid regime when, in the face of a death penalty, he made the remarks which were to change the course of history and are still as fascinating today they were then.

He surprised a judge when he said,

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Program director, we are today playing our part as a department, we are today reaching out, taking this action, inspiring change and doing something for humanity. This is an ideal Madiba cherished; it is an ideal which he hoped to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which he was prepared to die.

Madiba is still alive today and he is living to see his ideals coming to fruition. It must be fulfilling and heartwarming to note that the whole World is doing something for humanity in his name and inspired by his ideals.

Siyiziko sithe asithathe lethuba nathi sihloniphe umongameli osathatha umhlalaphansi, uPresident Nelson Mandela. Sonke siyazi ke ukuthi uMadiba uzwana kanjani nabantwa kanye nekusasa labo, kanye nalabo abaswelayo nabantulayo.

Yingakho sizothata lethuba lokuthi sihloniphe futhi sakhe nobudlelwano obuhle nobuqinile nomphakathi ukuze sikwazi ukulwa nobugebengu.

Namhlanje siqhakambisa ichaza lokubambisana phakathi komphakathi, amaphoyisa kanye neziko lezokuphepha.

Siveza obala ukuthi asifuni ukuchumana nomphathi nje ngesikhathi sekunamaqala, okuboshwa nokubophisana. Sifuna ke nathi ukuthi sidlale eyethu indima esimeni sempilo kulabo abaswelayo nabantulayo.

Sakha lobudlelwano egameni lika Tata, uMadiba. Sizonikezela ngalokhu okuncane esinako ukuze sibonise inhlonipho kuleqhawe impilo yalo esehlonoshwa mhlaba wonke.

Madiba chose a life of hardship so that we could live better. In doing so he taught us a very important lesson that real leaders must be prepared to sacrifice all for the freedom and wellbeing of their people.

If Madiba gave 67 precious years of his life to fight a noble battle for freedom of an African child to be free, the best way to celebrate his contribution is to make everyday a Mandela day.

We must make life a little easier for those who are less able, we must provide to the needy and fill those empty stomachs out there.

We must care for the sick and give love, warmth and shelter to the homeless and the under privileged.

Everyday, we must ask ourselves this question, what have I done for humanity in honor of Madiba?

The men we are celebrating here, was a visionary, a men of peace and a unifier. In one of his speeches Madiba tells us that can we can overcome poverty

He said, "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

We want to make everyday a Nelson Mandela day so that we can respond to the challenges and plight of young people, the rural and elderly, the woman and children who are feeling the hit everyday.

To respect Madiba would be to ensure that we fight poverty, we get young people to go to school and ultimately to tertiary for further studying, we reduce and ultimately eradicate joblessness.

We create safer and peaceful living environment with proper health care systems. We must do all this to honour Madiba, we must do all this everyday and never wait until its Mandela day before we can do good for humanity.

My sincere gratitude goes to the care workers of two centres centre, for caring and giving love to those who needs it most. Madiba is indeed very proud of you and keep up the good work. You are at the heart of Madiba's ideals. You are living, breathing and a clear cut symbols of humanity. May the sprit of Madiba live in you and your families' forever.

As I close Program Director, Madiba is a world icon. I want us to be clear of the ideals Madiba lived for and to achieve. These ideals are now our direct responsibility. We must achieve them for Madiba.

We have our political freedom but our people are not as yet free from poverty. That's where we should focus our attention to honour Mandela. Lets all put our shoulders on the wheel and do it for Madiba.

The visionary Madiba understood the depth of our challenges and was well aware that solutions were not going to come easy. He anticipated that freedom was going to make us find out that there is more to be done and this quote captures exactly what was in Madiba's mind.

He deliberately said, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb".

As South Africans we have climbed so many hills since the dawn of democracy in 1994 and we realize now that there are many more hills to be climbed.

Lets do good, lets do good for Madiba.

I thank you.