

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY COUNCILLOR RAMADIMETJA
MPHAHLELE ON BEHALF OF HER WORSHIP, THE MAYOR OF
LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLOR
MODILE IVY PHAAHLA ON THE OCCASSION OF SADTU
NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT MOLETLANE TRIBAL HALL**

29 AUGUST 2012

PROGAMME DIRECTOR

LEADERSHIP OF SADTU AND MASS DEMOCRATIC FORCES

COMRADES AND COMPATRIOTS

AMANDLA!!!

WATHINTHA BAFAZI WA THINTHA UMBOKOTO!!!!

MALIBONGWE IGAMA LAMAKHOSIKAZI!!!

I would like to extend warm greetings to all members of SADTU and the Mass Democratic Movement.

Re kopane mo lehono, mengwaga e 56 ka morago ga ge baswarathipa ka bogaleng ba naga ye ba ile ba gwantela kua Union Buildings maikemisetso e le go ipelaetsa le go bontsha go kwatiswa ke melawana ka moka ya go gatelela bana ba thari e ntsho.

Lehono ge re kopane fa, re ja dikenywa tsa boikgafo bja bona ge re humane tokologo. Re rata go lebogisha Mma Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma ge a kgethilwe go ba Modula-Setulo wa African Union Commission.

This Sadtu National Women's day takes place during a significant year, the celebration of 100 years of selfless struggle. It was a struggle in which women played a pivotal role to bring about freedom and a society free of poverty, inequality and injustice.

We pay tribute to many generations of women for their sacrifices, patriotism, hard work and commitment.

We salute Charlotte Maxeke, the founder of the Bantu Women's League, a precursor to the ANC Women's League, a woman of substance who was a pioneer in many fields- science, education, missionary work, social work and leadership.

She led the first campaign against pass laws in Bloemfontein in the Free State, as early as 1913.

We honour women who followed in her footsteps, the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings against pass laws on the 9th August 1956.

Among the group was one of our own Mama Lillian Masediba Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie Williams-De Bruyn and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

Mama Lillian Ngoyi eloquently described the pass laws as "a badge of slavery in terms whereof all sorts of insults and humiliation may be committed on Africans by members of the ruling class".

Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi,

We salute all women for their resilience against pass laws, severe repression, the internecine violence that engulfed our townships during the 80s and 90s, arrests, torture and all sorts of violation of human dignity.

We honour the women who joined Umkhonto Wesizwe, taking up arms in defence of their country and in the quest for freedom.

The driving force behind the actions of all these generations of women was to a National Democratic Society- a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa, free of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Today we look back at what we have achieved since the attainment of the freedom they fought so hard for, especially with regards to promoting gender equality.

It is a matter of considerable pride that many of the rights and freedom women fought for are now entrenched in the Constitution of our country.

Gender equality is now a constitutional imperative in our country. This is further reinforced by various pieces of legal instruments, including the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, the

Employment Equity Act, the Domestic Violence Act, Maintenance Act, Sexual Offences Act and the Civil Union Act.

Other key structures promoting gender equality are the Commission for Gender Equality and the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities. While we still have a lot of work to do, we are satisfied with the progress made thus far in improving the status and quality of life of women, in only 18 years of freedom.

We are making progress on women's occupation of leadership positions. The ANC government remains determined to ultimately meet the 50-50 target on women's representation. In the executive committee of our Municipality we are having 5 women out of 10, this simply means that the 50-50 target have been realised.

However, we cannot complete the emancipation of women, without promoting economic emancipation. We encourage women to play a meaningful and direct in key industrial sectors as articulated in the Industrial Policy Action Plan. The sectors include chemicals, advanced manufacturing, green energy, agro processing, metals, and the automotive sectors.

There are number of programmes as vehicles of supporting women-led and women-owned enterprises, run by the Department of Trade and Industry amongst others.

There are other programmes promoting women in farming and women in construction. The ultimate goal is to enable women to contribute to economic growth, job creation and the fight against poverty and inequality.

Compatriots,

**WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE IN UNITING
WOMEN TO FIGHT POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND
UNEMPLOYMENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

I THANK YOU!!!

KE A LEBOGA!!!

