

SPEECH BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF LEPELLE- NKUMPI MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLOR IVY PHAAHLA ON THE OCCASION OF NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATION AT SEKUTUPU OLD AGED HOME

18 JULY 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen

It took a, now 94 year old man from a rural village of South Africa that gave 67 years of his life to make a positive change in the world. President Nelson Mandela took it upon himself to give up his career and freedom, and dedicate his life to the fight against apartheid and social injustice. South Africa and indeed the world are fortunate to have a person like Nelson Mandela to have sown the seed of change.

It was through his and many others' endless tireless and courageous efforts and commitment that today every South African can live in a free and fair South Africa. In his last speech as President of South Africa said "I have reached that part of the long walk when the opportunity is granted, as it should be to all men and women, to retire to some rest and tranquillity in the village of my birth.

As I sit in Qunu and grow ancient as its hills, I will continue to entertain the hope that there has emerged a cadre of leaders in my own country and region, on my continent and in the world, which will not allow that any should be denied their freedom as we were, that any should be turned into refugees as we were, that any should be condemned to go hungry as we were, and that any should be stripped of their human dignity as we were.

I will continue to hope that Africa's Renaissance will strike deep root and blossom forever, without regard to the changing seasons. Were

these hopes to translate into a realisable dream and not a nightmare to torment the soul of the aged, then will I, indeed have peace and tranquillity.

Then would history and the billions throughout the world proclaim that it was right that we dreamt and that we toiled to give life to a workable dream.”

The realisation of the dream will require the participation of everyone. Similarly, throughout the Mandela Day initiative, individuals are called to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place by contributing 67 minutes of their time not only on 18 July but to go further and make everyday their Mandela Day.

As Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality we wish to join the rest of the world in congratulating Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on his 94th birthday. As we celebrate the joyous celebration of Madiba’s birthday, we ought to be reminded of his extraordinary life from which we can draw a lot of inspiration.

His selfless sacrifice, humility and dedication to the struggle for freedom and commitment to human rights are what separate him from the rest of mankind. He was humiliated and almost stripped of his dignity for his strong belief in freedom and human rights. Despite all his sufferings, Madiba has emerged a towering icon, preaching a message of reconciliation and equal rights for all.

Madiba has not only been a torch bearer in the quest of Africa’s freedom but he has also proudly stood for justice and freedom across the globe.

In celebrating Madiba’s birthday, it is befitting for us as Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality to reflect on the values for which he has fought

throughout his life, as this would inform the discourse on the shared values journey which our municipality has embarked upon.

Our Municipality should therefore draw inspiration from Madiba's own commanding voice in deepening an understanding of the values of democracy, good governance and human rights, which have essentially been identified as shared values which could facilitate Africa's integration and development.

Time has discredited heroes and heroines as it has forgotten some, but Madiba has secured an enduring place in the heart and history of our beloved country. This international day is in recognition of his great place in the heart of humanity.

It only takes one person to sow an idea of change in the minds of a group of individuals. It only takes small efforts of a group of people to start a revolution. It takes a nation to change the world.

Let us nurture a culture of helping one another. There are millions of people in the world who need a helping hand. Show you care and do whatever you can to make a positive change in someone's life.

Happy Birthday Madiba and May you have many more!!!!

THANK YOU!!!!

KE A LEBOGA!!!!