

Mayor`s keynote address at the Disability day, Ga-Motodi, 09 December 2011

Programme director

Members of the Executive Committee

Councillors

Ba ka difokeng

Our disability forum

Distinguished guests

Setshaba ka moka

We are here to celebrate the international day of the disabled persons. Each year the month of December is dedicated to celebrate the achievements and to reflect on the challenges faced by the disabled persons. Our society is still marginalising people who are living with disability in various forms. This day is dedicated to make people aware of the struggle faced by the disabled people on daily basis.

The Constitution of this country guarantees everybody rights including the disabled people. We have seen how disabled people treated both at home and work places. There are still families who hide disabled person from been seen the public. This is not right because such people cannot get help elsewhere. This campaign should indicate to people that disabled persons should enjoy all rights accorded by the Constitution.

Government has introduced measures to give disabled persons equal opportunities in the work place. Still there are some sectors whose employment profiles are without disabled person even though they qualify. It is not a curse to be disabled but we must educate people to change their mindset and accept people with disability without any reservations.

We would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of those organisations which are fighting for the rights of the disabled person. This is making those who were hiding at homes to be brought forward and be assisted by government.

Our government has introduced a system of social pension to those who are unable to work. We must warn family members who are abusing the pensions for disabled people to stop such practises. We want to encourage you to report such people to the authorities so that we must stop such bad activities.

This is a special day for the disabled persons and we must commit ourselves to help them to set up facilities where their talents must be displayed. We must make sure that the protective workshops like this one are well equipped and supported by government and private sector. We must also assist them by finding markets where they can sell the products.

We should not make this events to be talk show but forums where were taken decisions to assist our disabled persons in any way possible. Our Municipality will do everything within its power to make sure that the disabled persons are assisted. We would like to thank Mr Magakwe and his committee for exposing the rights of the disabled people and making sure that they are assisted. We want to encourage you to continue with the good work you are doing and we will also play our part in this regards.

Let us make this a special day.

I thank you.