

## MAYOR'S ADDRESS AT THE HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS, KGAUTSWANE, 29 SEPTEMBER 2012

**Programme Director**

**EXCO Members**

**Councillors**

**Our cultural activists**

**Distinguished guests**

**Media**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Today we are here to celebrate the Heritage day with you. It is important for us as nations to celebrate heritage to remember where we come from as individuals and as a country. It is important to know where you come from in order to know your destiny. After the 1994 elections, a new term of 'rainbow nation' was coined to indicate the intercultural mix of the diverse groups in the country.

Government went a step further to declare September as month to celebrate heritage in order to make people aware of their culture and traditions despite the rainbow nation concept. This was also done to encourage people to be proud of their heritage and to preserve the rich history. There are many people especially Magoshi who have preserved our heritage and this is an opportunity for all of us to remember the role that they have played to shape the modern day society.

Most of the parents have taken their children to Model C schools where indigenous languages have been relegated to the back seat. Our children are no longer proud of their mother tongue because of the western influence. It is not wrong to take a child to a mixed cultural schools but it is important for our children to know their culture and practise it. If we do not teach our children our heritage, we will be building a society that will be lost and without morals.

There are still nations that are proud of their culture and they still celebrate those events without shame. We know of the Swazi reed dance where young maidens all over Swaziland converge to cut and carry reeds to the royal palace. They are ashamed of that even those who attend private schools where they are taught in foreign languages.

We have reduced our heritage into a single day event and we shun practising our culture. We only wear our tradition attire of that particular day and throughout the year we do not. Let us go back to the old ways and start eating our traditional food and be proud of our music and other form of

cultural entertainment. As parents we must take the lead and transfer the traditional ways to our children. Our country is having a rich history that must be passed from one generation to the other and we must take this opportunity to make our children to start embracing our culture.

Let us make this to be a memorable day and let the festivities leave and imprint marks into the heads and mind our children.

I THANK YOU AND ENJOY