

MAYOR'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE DEAF MONTH CELEBRATION DAY. PENGE, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

Programme Director

EXCO Members

Councillors

Representatives from DEAFSA

Distinguished guests

Media

Ladies and gentlemen

We are here to celebrate the Deaf month with the deaf community in our Municipality. It is not often where the marginalised groups in our society are celebrated and recognised for their role in developing our communities. We are here to say to you that you are the important component of our society and we appreciate all the good work you are doing.

There are still families in our communities who are still denying people living disabilities an opportunity to mix with other sectors for reasons known to them. We want to say to those families that you are infringing the rights of those people because they cannot expose their God given talents. Government has gone a long way in coming up with various capacity building programmes to assist the disabled community to participate in the mainstream economy.

We have established the unit dealing with matters of people living with disabilities in our Municipality and we want to formally thank them for the sterling work in uplifting the disabled community in the Municipality. Since they were established we have witnessed many success stories and the amazing work done by people living with disabilities. Continue with your good work to improve the lives of our community.

Today we are making history in South Africa and we want to thank DEAFSA for making it possible to reach the milestone. We are here to witness the graduation of the Deaf people drawn from all corners of the Municipality. They have undergone training in Panel beating and motor spraying and we would like to congratulate them for being the first intake and wish them well in the new careers. People are having perceptions that only able bodied persons can do manual labour forgetting that people living with disabilities can also do that. As the Municipality we have gone in changing that perceptions and today we are witnessing the results of that initiative.

We are going to monitor you in new field and we will be happy to see you establishing a workshop where vehicles are fixed. We want to see your skills being transformed into a big business which will in turn create job opportunities many people including able bodied persons. We will recommend that government vehicles be fixed at your workshop to indicate to the society that the investment made pays off.

We are also glad to introduce Miss Tshepi Mononyane as our first language interpreter in our Municipality. This has been a complaint that when government is having events, people living with disabilities are marginalised. From now on, we are going to utilise her services to interpret whenever we have events. We are grateful that as a Municipality we have gone a long in making sure that the rights of the disabled persons are respected. We can upon other sectors to come forward so that we can assist them in many possible ways.

Let us make this day to be remembered.

I THANK YOU