

MAYOR MASEKA PHEEDI'S WOMEN'S DAY MESSAGE | 2021

The Blouberg Local Municipality joins the nation in commemorating Women's Day. This is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and the important role that women have played and continue to play in our society.

As the municipality we pay homage to thousands anti-pass women protesters whom on this day, in 1956, staged a march in the Union Buildings to air their grievances.

We celebrate this year's Women Month under the theme: "Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future"

Just like last year, 2021 Women's Day is celebrated under difficult circumstances - the lockdown, which prohibits huge social gatherings in a bid to limit the spread of the coronavirus. On that note, we urge all residents eligible for vaccination to register and get vaccinated in order to bring COVID-19 to an end.

Outside of the global pandemic, the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) is robbing women and girls from feeling safe and realizing their inherent human potential. Added to this discrimination and abuse against women on the basis of sexual identity and preferences continues to be a challenge. The abuse, rape and killing of women and girls is getting out of hand.

Just few days to the commemoration of this significant day, another hate crime occurred in our locality where a young woman succumbed to injuries sustained from assault. The gruesome murder of Thapelo Sehata sent chills down my spine. We call for the swift arrest and removal of those heartless criminals from our society so that they do not continue with their horrendous acts.

We reiterate President Cyril Ramaphosa's statement that "the rights of women and children are inalienable, and must be both upheld and enforced" Now, we need to stand together as men of Blouberg Local Municipality, as men of this country, to put a stop to these violent crimes, it is our collective responsibility to create a safe environment for our women and girls.

As the municipality we are committed to empowering women to helping them reach their highest potential and the coming generation of women to play their part in the economy of our country.

Ours is to ensure that our girls have access to quality education, are enrolled in schools and have the opportunity to complete their education to the highest possible level to ensure their full participation in the economy of our country.

We are appreciative of the huge role played by Lilian Ngoyi, Charlotte Maxeke Sophia Williams-De Bruyn and many women activists in the emancipation of women. This month is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect women's achievement as well as the

problems they have faced in the struggle to be free and the important role they continue to play in our society.

Wathinta abafazi, wathint' imbokodo.

HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY, HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH!