

BLM WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

"Women have come a long way since the 09th August 1956 March and we should look back with pride that society has embraced 50/50." Mayor Maria Thamaga addressing women councillors during capacity building and wellness session.

"Batho ba rena ba tseba gore ge go kgethiwa dikomiti re swanetše re akaretše basadi

Ge re thwala bašomi re swanetše re akaretše basadi bjalo bjalo.

Le ge re kgetha baemedi go akaretšwa banna le basadi goba basadi fela.

These things were not happening in the past but they are now part our society.

Women leadership is now dominating our society and it is doing wonders.

Indeed, tša eta ke mosadi pele di nwa maswi".

The Mayor indicated that, the past the 30 years of democracy brought changes to the lives of women.

"President Nelson Mandela said and I quote "It always seems impossible until it is done"

What the likes of Dora Tamana, Lilian Ngoyi, Charlotte Maxeke, Albertinal Sisulu, Sophy De Bruyn, Winnie Mandela, Joyce Mashamba and many others started what seemed impossible but today we can see it is possible.

We now have women presidents, women premiers, women executive mayors and mayors, women chiefwhips and the first female Chief Justice Mandisa Maya and as Limpopo, we now have our first female Premier Phophi Ramathuba. I am the Mayor of Blouberg Municipality and the chief whip of Council, Cllr Rangata is also a woman. It is a great stride for women".

She further indicated that, praises does not mean women no longer have challenges; the fight against the triple oppression of women continues and that the economic empowerment of women is still a challenge as well as

Gender based violence and femicide which still rears its ugly head and many other challenges like unemployment, poverty, drug abuse and other social ills.

"As we celebrate 30 years of freedom and democracy we should say indeed it is 30 years of women freedom and gains. The progress we have made gives us strength and courage to face the challenges of today. And united in action we shall overcome. As we achieve power the barriers will fall

We have attended both local and district women dialogue sessions. The three topics for commissions were indeed relevant and linked to the challenges we are grappling with as women. I hope the two sessions and this session will better equip us for the battles ahead. When you empower a women you empower the community. The capacity building session is not in vain. It is meant to empower us.

I am happy to see us gathered in this fashion. Let us invite the 1956 bravery and courage as we face the challenges of today. Let us be an army of women ready to face the challenges of today. We can make it. We can defeat the demon of GBV and femicide. Re ka fenyä tlala le hlokokego ya mešomo. "



