

## 2020 WOMEN'S MONTH MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, HIS WORSHIP CLLR MASEKA PHEEDI

09 August, another calendar day elsewhere, but here, in South Africa this day carries vast significance so is the entire month of August. Every year in August, our country marks Women's month.

This is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and the important role that women of all races and religions have played and continue to play in South African society.

As Blouberg Local Municipality we pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women. This year we commemorate Women's Month under the theme "Generation Equality: Realising women's rights for equal future"

2020 Women's Day is celebrated under the difficult circumstances due to Covid-19. We would have loved to gather in various places to celebrate this special day but the lockdown restrictions prohibit such public gatherings as a containment measure. As the nation battles this invisible enemy, we are also fighting the highly visible epidemic which is causing fear among women and children - the gender based violence (GBV). Our country is hogging international headlines for the wrong reasons because of brutal killings and rape of women and children which has gotten out of hand. We need to stand together as men of this country, as men of Blouberg Local Municipality to fight against this barbaric act.

However, we are hopeful that a call by minister in the Presidency of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Mme Maite Nkoana-Mashabane to strengthen the men's programmes will remedy the situation. "As a country we must continue to strengthen the Men's Movement so that men can play a meaningful role in ending GBV and contribute to behaviour change and the breaking of stereotypes towards the goal of gender equality".

This month is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect women's achievements as well as the problems they have faced in the struggle to be free and the important role they continue to play in society. Apart from their traditional roles as mothers, wives and caregivers, statistics show that women are making great progress in business, politics, academic and economic with more and more women reaching top positions.

As Blouberg Local Municipality we are committed to empowering women and helping them to reach their highest potential.

Women, we are proud of what you have achieved. Let the achievements of those who went before you inspire you to unlock your own strength and motivate you to make a difference in your family, your community or your country.

We salute these heroines for their fighting spirits; Mama Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Alberina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn and many more. Wanthint' Abafazi, Wanthinth' Imbokodo!!!

HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY, HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH

