



REMARKS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, HONOURABLE BUSHY MAAPE ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF A MULTI MEDIA CENTRE IN LETLHAKENG, MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, 09 DECEMBER, 2021

Programme Director,

Deputy Minister for Social Development, Hendrieta Bogapane-Zule

MEC for Social Development Boitumelo Moiloa

The Mayor of Moses Kotane Local Municipality

MTN South Africa Foundation

Magosi a rona a tlotlegang

Leaders of Faith Based Organisations

Distinguished guests,

Bagaetsho Dumelang,

One of the primary objectives of today's ceremony is to bridge the digital divide between affluent communities and rural villages such as this one. The digital age such as access to internet affords our people an opportunity to be part and parcel of the broader information highway.

Through access to information which has been brought by the processes of globalisation rural communities are able to access information that can better their lives and help them make informed decisions.

We are living in an information and it is my believe that through centres such as this one we will able to demystify a lot of falsehood gripping our communities. While access to information is of vital importance, we must also guard against the lies and untruths peddled in various platforms to confuse society.

There has been a lot of propaganda about Covid-19 and vaccines. The youth have fallen trap to these falsehoods. I would like to appeal to the youth to familiarise themselves with proper information so that they don't get hoodwinked into believing conspiracies about vaccines.

As government we are on the right path in terms of our vaccination drive. Over 1.6 million people have been inoculated with the Covid-19 vaccine. This translates into over forty percent of people who have received their jabs. But the youth is hesitant in terms of being vaccinated.

I want to appeal to young people to go out in numbers and get vaccinated. It is through vaccination that we can reach population immunity and this will enable us to control the spread of this virus and its variants. This is critical because as a consequence of this virus people have lost their jobs in numbers and business have been forced to closed shop.

This launch also coincides with 16 days of activism against women and children abuse. This local municipality has been flagged as a hotspot in relation to cases of abuse as well as Gender-based violence. We need to fight this scourge by raising the alarm on this pandemic. Of vital importance is to report these cases to the police. The abuse of women and children must stop.

This centre will go a long way in affording our people to be solution driven on a number of challenges confronting our province and in particular this community. We commit to work hand in glove with Magosi, Baruti, NGOs and other important stakeholders to find lasting solutions on a number of socio-economic challenges bedevilling our communities.

I thank you!