



Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO, AT THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATION HELD AT THE VRYBURG SHOWGROUND ON FRIDAY, 09 AUGUST 2019

Programme Directors, the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Mr Nathi Mthethwa and the MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Tsotso Tlhapi

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Rre Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa

Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Rre David Mabuza

Ministers and Deputy Ministers present

Premiers and MECs from various provinces present

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Speakers of different municipalities

Councillors present

Various Women Formations with us here today

Members of the media

Fellows South Africans

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bagaetsho dumelang.

Mr President, we are indeed honoured and humbled to be hosting the first National Women's Day Commemoration in the 6th Administration as

the North West Province and moreover, to be hosting it in this district; that has been named after one of the finest we have ever produced as a movement and as a people, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati; fondly known to us, her people, as Mama Ruta.

Ladies and gentlemen, believe me when I say that Mama Ruta represented and embodied all that which is noble in our quest to change the lives of all South Africans for the better; a true and selfless freedom fighter, a combatant of Umkhonto we Sizwe and a beacon of light in our quest for freedom and democracy.

She remains a symbol of what we aspire to be as individuals and as leaders in today's society; and for our Government to be hosting this commemoration in her hometown, Vryburg - a place she held very dearly to her heart – is a tribute befitting a person of her stature.

Mr President, we are a Province that has a rich and proud history of various forms of resistance ably led by women; from the gallant and brave women who stood against the unjust pass laws of the 1950s in the Zeerust area to the participation of the likes of Mama Ruta in the Defiance March by Women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria 63 years ago to the date.

We have always had the empowerment of, and leadership by, women at the top of our agenda as a Province and testimony to that is the fact that we have had three women Premiers since the dawn of democracy.

Mr President, we have made a bold commitment as the North West Provincial Government that, for the next five and years and possibly beyond, we shall prioritize the empowerment of previously marginalised groups in society, inclusive of women, youth and people with disabilities.

This will be reflected in our procurement plans as well as our job creation programmes.

Some of the biggest challenges our people are facing in the North West are an improved rural roads infrastructure and the provision of adequate, clean drinking water; and if we are able to accelerate our rural roads infrastructure development plans, rural women will be able to have easy access to urban centres for better economic opportunities and quality government services.

This district has the most gravel roads in the entire province and we are hard at work to ensure that we have surfaced roads – in the process, we will be empowering and benefitting women and youth owned business enterprises.

In that way, we will be honouring the legacy of the Mama Ruta and her contemporaries for the fight for a just and equal South Africa.

With those few words, Mr President, on behalf of the people of the North West, I wish to extend a warm welcome you and everyone present here today.

I thank you.

Ends