

Excellencies, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a happy and joyful day. Who could not be happy on a day like this, surrounded by so many smiles?

I am extremely honoured to have the chance to address you in this prestigious moment when our institution, Goedemoed Correctional Center celebrates its memorial Long Service Awards today. This is a precious moment for us because aside from the fact, this function underlines our institution's successful back-to-back 60 years in its realm of imparting education, skills and rehabilitation.

Allow me to take you back a moment; Allow me to provide a short lecture about Goedemoed Correctional Center and also allow me to say "We learn History to know the past, in order to understand the present and therefore to predict the future"

Back in 1953 the first prison was built. This was a zinc structure. It could accommodate about 500 offenders. Those days the head of prison was called the Head Warder. During that time another prison was built with zinc, bricks and stone. This prison burned down during the year of 1969.

In 1971 Medium A was built and could accommodate 900 offenders. In 1973 Medium B (those days Maximum) was built. Nowadays Goedemoed consists of two centers, namely Medium A and Medium B - these two centers function separately. These are only male offenders who get accommodated in these facilities.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of Mohokare Local municipality and the leadership at large!

I therefore conclude by urging the house to observe a moment of silence for the tragic loss of our own African brother, Son of the soil Vuyo "Sharp Sharp" Mbuli; who lost his promising life last week Saturday, whom shall be laid to rest tomorrow!

I thank you!