

Press Release: 15/08/2012

Message of support from the honourable Mayor for Women's Month



Clr MA Shasha

Mayor of Mohokare Local Municipality

I would like to extend warm greetings to the Community of Mohokare; and especially to all women and girls on this important month in our history.

The theme for 2012 National Women's Day "56 years of women united against unemployment, poverty and inequality".

The 2012 National Women's Day takes place during a significant year, the celebration of 100 years of selfless struggle. It was a struggle in which women played a pivotal role to bring about freedom and a society free of poverty, inequality and racism.

Mohokare local municipality pays tribute to many generations of women for their sacrifices, patriotism, hard work and commitment.

We salute Charlotte Maxeke, the founder of the Bantu Women's League a precursor to the ANC Women's League, a woman of substance who was a pioneer in many fields – science, education, missionary work, social work and leadership.

She led the first campaign against pass laws in Bloemfontein in the Free State, as early as 1913.

The Free State Provincial government also honoured this heroine by renaming Maitland Street on which she led the march, as Charlotte Maxeke Street.

We honour the women who followed in her footsteps, the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings against pass laws on the 9th of August 1956.

Among this group were Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie Williams-De Bruyn and Albertina Sisulu.

Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi!

As a Community of Mohokare we must unite against all hooligans who attack and sexually assault women and girls.

The enactment of the Domestic Violence Act was an important milestone. We urge women to use this law to protect themselves.

We urge communities to help government to eradicate violence against women through reporting such crimes. Domestic violence in particular should not be treated as a private matter. It is a crime and must be reported to the police.

Working together we can do more to transform our communities and ensure women empowerment and gender equality.

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