

**Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, DJ Mmetle during
the Mogoboya Land Handover Celebration on the 6th of April 2013**

Kgosi Mogoboya

Headmen

EXCO Members of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

All councillors

All government officials

Esteemed guests and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

Programme Director

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words. I am honoured to be here today, because today it is a day where we mark yet another milestone in our new democracy. It is a day of yet another achievement for the residents of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Today you are taking off the garments of mourning and putting on a new garment, a garment of happiness and jubilation. Today we celebrate the return of our ancestral land; this is not only the occasion to mark the return to the land of our ancestors but also the restoration of the identity and the heritage of the Bakgakga ba Mogoboya. It is always a pleasure to be part of history, because this is indeed a historic moment in our fight to erase the legacy of apartheid.

The painful past of our country is slowly but surely being erased in the memory of our people. Our people who have for a long time been denied of ownership of their own land are now getting it back.

Programme Director

This year marks the centenary of the 1913 Native Land Act, where a majority of black South Africans were dispossessed of their land by the racist apartheid government. Through the land reform program our government has made a commitment to redress the injustices of the past. The policies and the laws of the apartheid government has not only denied the majority of black South Africans economic opportunities, the effect of these discriminatory legislation has will be felt for years to come. Our government in all its spheres has also committed to 5 priorities areas which are job creation, education, rural development, safety and security as well as health. This are

Programme Director

In some areas where land has been restored to the community, the work of the Communal Property Associations has been plagued with many challenges. Contrary to their good intentions of bringing communities together, the CPAs have been misused by members to achieve their own self interests and divided the communities into factions.

Today I ask of you to focus on a common vision of developing the restored land for the benefit of generations that will come after you.

Programme Director

I BELIEVE that plans are at an advanced stage to organise a capacity building workshop which will empower you with skills in the areas of governance, administration and general management skills. The time for talking is now over; I want to see some action in this project and for the whole world to hear about your achievements.

Let me close by saying: Land is a valuable resource that can be used to create wealth for the owners. Today this valuable asset is officially placed in your hands. Use it wisely to generate wealth for yourself and your offspring, and thus bring a happy ending to the history of this community.