

Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Dikeledi Josephine Mmetle, during a handing over of tools/equipments to vulnerable households at Dr. CN Phatudi Hospital on the 23rd May of 2012

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning everybody, I am very excited to see our people coming together to do something positive and do it together. I know that I have not been here to officially introduce myself to you. There are some among you who know me, some at a personal level, some through my government work and others in my political life. I am standing here, addressing you today in my capacity as the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, a municipality that is made up of more than 124 villages and towns. Over half a million people live in these towns and villages. I head a municipality made up of 68 councillors including myself, of these 68, 34 are ward councillors who represent your interests as a community in our council. Councillor Maripe represents your ward in our council. I urge all of you to work with him and his ward committee, our community development workers and our community development facilitators for the benefit of the entire community.

We have gathered here today because the department of social development wants you, the community to stand on your own two feet and work hard to improve the quality of your life and those around you. The department is striving to ensure that it is accessible to the communities, especially the rural areas. We are faced with the scarcity of social workers in our communities, I urge parents to encourage their children to study social sciences to ensure that there is enough social workers in our communities. The department is responsible among others for the treatment and management of substance abuse, victim empowerment programmes, child welfare, care of older persons and people living with disabilities. They also provide care and support for individual or families infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. All of these

challenges must be dealt with at the community level. You, the community must engage Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Victim Empowerment Programmes. The department is there to assist you in this regard.

There is a phrase in English that says ‘**give a man a fish and you feed him for a day but teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime**’. This saying suggests that the ability to work is of greater benefit than one of handout. We are here today because there are people who are willing to work, people who are willing to sweat, and people who are not prepared to sit and wait for government to feed them.

Today we will be handing over tools and equipments to beneficiaries identified by the department. These tools will be handed over to ensure that as the community you have something to do on a daily basis. As government we are urging the community to use natural resources to support themselves and their families. Government alone cannot give employment to everyone but can surely create an atmosphere conducive for investment and job creation. We must acquire skills to help ourselves move forward as a country and to be productive. Let us take care of these tools.

Our children must go to school, be at school every day and on time. No parent should allow their children to dodge classes at any point except in extraordinary circumstances. By giving your children education, you are giving them the best gift in life, you are giving freedom and confidence. They will never have to beg, they will never depend on government grants, food parcels or hand outs. I want to tell you today that some children do not understand the importance of education; it is up to us to make them understand. Let’s protect our children from alcohol abuse, drug abuse and sexual exploitation. Let’s check if our children are in their rooms at night, let’s check how they perform at school, let us familiarise ourselves with their friends, their friends’ families and their whereabouts. Our children are the future.

SASSA is busy re-registering all social grants beneficiaries to ensure that only the rightful beneficiaries receive grants. All social grants beneficiaries must re-register as soon as they can. You must rest assured because this process is meant to curb corruption and fraud and not to rob you of your benefits. So let's all support this initiative and re-register.

Together We can do more.

I thank You