

**THE LAUCHING OF THE GENDER AND MEN'S FORUM AT GREATER  
TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY BY HONOURABLE MAYOR MARIPE  
MANGENA.**

SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

EXCO MEMBERS PRESENT

COUNCILORS

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PASTORS

NGO'S

SECTOR DEPARTMENTS

SALGA

COGHSTA

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Good morning, Avuxeni, Dumelang

Today we are gathered in this way just a day after South Africa laid to rest one of its political giant, Ahmed Kathrada. The stalwart treated everybody with dignity.

As we mourn his passing on, it is important for this forum to remember that it is because of his selfless contribution and others that we are able to realise a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. He spent most of his life fighting against injustice.

Madam Speaker this forum is launched just few days after the Human Rights Day which is an important day in the Nation's commemorative calendar.

One of the strategic objectives for the 2017 Human Rights month is to remember the life of OR Tambo and to highlight the progress made in advancing human rights and restoring human dignity.

The bill of rights (in chapter 2 of the constitution) states that everyone is equal before the law and has the right of equal protection and benefit of the law.

South Africa has made important strides in the struggle for gender equality and women empowerment. This can be attested by the percentage of women represented in our parliament. South Africa comes 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa in terms of percentage of women representation in parliament.

The purpose of this gathering today is to launch a forum that will provide a safe and supportive environment conducive to discuss issues of gender equality.

Gender based violence remains a thorny issue in our society and we believe that this forum will go a long way in shifting the mind-sets of violent people in society.

We are believing that this programme will be able to reduce the high rate of gender based violence. As leaders of this forum, let's go home and be role models in our communities by respecting our partners and loving our kids.

Men's forum have an important role to play in reversing gender based inequality and violence. We need to localise these forum in our communities and implement all resolutions taken today.

**I THEREFORE DECLARE THE GREATER TZANEEN GENDER AND MENS FORUM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.**

**I THANK YOU.**

