

***Speech delivered by the Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, His Worship
Councillor Gerson Molapisane on the occasion of the Youth Day Commemoration on 28
June 2023 at NAPSCOM in Tickeyline Village***

- *This month marks the 37th anniversary of the 1976 June 16 youth uprising against bantu education.*
- *The apartheid government viewed education as a part of the overall apartheid system including 'homelands', urban restrictions, pass laws and job reservation.*
- *The role of an African was one of labourer, worker, and servant only. As H.F Verwoerd, the architect of the Bantu Education Act (1953), conceived it:*
- *To quote him verbatim, Vervwoered said*
- *"There is no place for [the African] in the European community above the level of certain forms of labour. It is of no avail for him to receive a training which has as its aim, absorption in the European community"*
- *In the apartheid era there was a system of segregated and unequal education in the country. While white schooling was free, compulsory and expanding, black education was sorely neglected.*
- *Financial under provision and an urban influx led to gravely insufficient schooling facilities, teachers and educational materials as well as student absenteeism or non-enrolment.*
- *The evidence of the legacy of apartheid is still visible even to this day, schools in the suburbs are well developed with all the necessary amenities and facilities.*
- *The ANC government has in the 29 years since the dawn of the democratic dispensation introduced a number of measures including legislative changes, programmes and projects to reverse that segregative and evil impact of the apartheid regime.*

- *Our government has significantly improved access to decent education from basic to tertiary education. This include no fee schools and the free tertiary education funded through the NSFAS.*
- *Our government has also across all spheres established bursaries to fund the education of academic excelling students.*
- *Understanding the socioeconomic challenges faced by many of our people, government has also introduced scholar nutrition programmes so that no child misses school because of hunger.*
- *Our government has also introduced scholar transport to ensure that unlike us, the older generation no child must travel 10 km just to access a school.*
- *There are those who say youth month is a time for action and not for speeches, although agree with them, I must say that we cannot neglect our history, we must remind our people of the painful past that we come from.*
- *People must know the sacrifices made for this democracy and freedom that we enjoy today.*
- *We must also honour those who put their lives on the line so that you and I can live in a better South Africa that treats all races and tribes equally.*
- *We must continue to celebrate Tsietsi Mashinini, Hector Petersen, Peter Mokaba, Nelson Mandela and many others who sacrificed their lives and freedom for our freedom.*
- *The heroes and heroines of 1976 fought for the freedom that we enjoy today, we must as the youth of today fight for economic freedom, and that must happen in your lifetime.*
- *Young people must fight to enter into the mainstream economy, to be active participants not just spectators.*

- *The fight must be to penetrate strategic sectors of the economy such as mining, banking, manufacturing, Information Technology, farming, retail, and construction.*
- *We cannot be fighting for Epwp jobs, producing toilet papers , as much as these are also important, we must aim higher.*
- *We must want to know and to be involved in the production of cars we drive, food we eat, clothes we wear and jewelry we buy, phones and computers we use.*

Programme Director

- *The Limpopo provincial government executive has directed all departments to fill in the more than 4500 funded vacant positions in the province.*
- *Youth Unemployment is a serious pandemic that faces our country.*
- *In the first quarter of this years, 2023, Youth Unemployment stands at 46,5 per cent, this is according to Statistics South Africa's Quarterly Labour Force Survey.*
- *I must acknowledge that his is a ticking trend time bomb that requires collective approach to diffuse.*
- *On our own as government, we cannot adequately address unemployment, we need to coordinate our efforts with critical roles players in society, ourselves as citizens, the private business sector, and also play in the global arena.*
- *Our economy is being threatened with sanctions due to our foreign policy, the rolling blackouts is also destroying our livelihoods, there are just so many challenges right now .*
- *As we speak there are 60 young people that we are going to appoint as interns in areas such as information science, water science, electrical engineering, Information Technology, civil and chemical engineering.*
- *This number will add to many others that we have put as trainees and spread across the 7 departments and 30 divisions of our municipality.*

- *We have started with the project to build the Lerejeni Sport complex to add to other sports facilities under the municipality. (we have Nkowankowa, Lenyenye, Runnymede, Burgersdorp, Julesburg, We also have Nkowankowa Multipurpose center)*
- *Our stadiums are free to use for sport development and recreation for children under 13.*
- *As young people you must expand your knowledge, that is why we are expanding our access to library services to deep rural areas. We have so far built libraries in Mulati, Shiluvane and Runnymede. We opened the Runnymede library this year and it is fully functional. There is also the Motupa library in the pipeline.*
- *Drug abuse and alcoholism (expand)*
- *Teenage pregnancy (expand)*
- *HIV/AIDS and other disease (expand)*

- **PROPOSED PRONOUNCEMENTS**

- *Moving from here all 50 % of all subcontracting work in our projects will go to companies owned by the youth, this means people aged between 18 and 35 years of age.*
- *We will set aside R1 million annually to support youth owned businesses.*
- *We will increase the budget for MSFAS to R1 million to assist young people struggling with historical student debt and also assist young people accepted in our universities to persue tertiary education.*
- *We will also set aside an annual amount of R1 million to promote and support sports development in our municipality, this amount will be used to stage the Mayor's Cup, where young people will compete in marathon, soccer, and netball . We will stage our Mayor's cup in November*
- *Donate computers to youth centers to improve computer literacy and access to internet*
- *Establish wifi hotspots in rural communities, we already have wifi connections in all our libraries including the libraries in Mulati, Runnymede and shiluvane.*

- *Annual debate competition to uncover tomorrow's leaders.*
- *Excellence awards to recognize academic excellence with the focus on matric.*