

**Welcome Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Dikeledi Josephine Mmetle, at Ditubatse Farm, 18 May 2012**

*MEC for Agriculture, Hon Jacob Marule*

*The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, His Excellency Joshua Matlou*

*Speaker of Mopani District Municipality, Violet Mathonsi*

*All councillors present*

*Esteemed guests and delegates*

*Ladies and gentlemen*

***Good Morning to you all***

*It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of the people of Greater Tzaneen Municipality and to say how grateful we are to have been chosen as a host for this celebration. Women today play a pivotal role in both the government and the private sector. Our country is placed fourth in the list of countries with the highest representation of women in parliament. Our municipality is led by women, both the Mayor and the acting municipal manager are women, our SAPS Cluster Commander is a woman, and in five of our six police stations, the commanders are women, a sign that women can lead and do so is a sector known to be dominated by men,*

***Programme Director***

*Agriculture is a source of food everywhere in the world, our municipality is known for its fertile land. Its mangoes, bananas, avocado and oranges are enjoyed all over the country and abroad, it gives me pleasure to know that our women are taking this sector head on. Mrs. Magoro Manny is an example of women who excel in the world full of obstacles. Her 2007 Female Farmer of the year victory made history in our municipality, her contribution to our society, farm management prowess and business acumen put her among the rare breed of women who are hands on. I want to personally thank her for putting our municipality on the national and global agenda through her dedication and commitment. I want to congratulate her for her 2007 award and her election as the President of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.*

***I welcome you, Thank you***