

Keynote Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, DJ Mmetle during the Man's Indaba at Karibu Leisure Resort on the 7th of March 2013.

EXCO Members of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Esteemed guests and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

Programme Director

Our country has made great strides in ensuring gender equality and representation. The role that both men and women play in our society is now almost equal however there are still pockets of resistance especially in the rural areas of our country. Today South Africa plays a significant role in world politics and the global economy; we continue to set high standards in gender equality and participatory democracy. However there are a few people who continue to taint our good name. These are men who rape and abuse women and children, these are men who neglect their responsibility as providers and protectors.

The rape stats in our country are alarming, the brutality of these rapes are shocking and the rate in which they are committed leaves a lot to be desired. Questions must be asked and answers must be provided. Surely this cannot be sole the responsibility of security

agencies; it needs our attention, all of us. As we have learnt 'together we can do more'. The same commitment that apartheid activist and struggle icon such as OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela, King Albert Luthuli and others have shown can win us this war. This is a war that requires men at the forefront, not because your wife or sister is a victim but because your community needs your involvement.

Programme Director

As men you head families, you have a duty to protect, defend, love and care for all the members of your household, you must mentor, guide and advice your children. It is a duty of every man to show love at home, to provide your family with food, roof on top of their heads and clothes in their backs. Your responsibility doesn't end there; you must be able to guide your kids into a better future. Today most kids indulge in alcohol and drugs, in the process exposing themselves to numerous dangers. Is this a sign of good parenting? Is this how you were raised. Let us give our kids a chance in life; we cannot give up on them.

Programme Director

Men must be leaders and they must lead, there are territories that require men specifically, we cannot allow people to break into our houses, what are we doing, we cannot allow people to sell drugs to our kids, we cannot allow any illicit behaviours in our neighbourhoods. It might not affect you today but tomorrow it might destroy your life.

My biggest disappointment is old men who date kids as young as 14, which man in their right frame of mind does that, men in their 30s, 40s, 50s and even 60s with small kids young enough to be their granddaughters. They have big bellies, huge beard and they take advantage of naive little kids. What wrong with us today.

The police cannot be everywhere that's why we need to be their eyes and ears, we need to be on the lookout for criminal elements in our society.

Programme Director

The case of the 2 year old allegedly raped by a 29 year-old in Tickeyline can never be accepted in our society today, such people can never be rehabilitated, they must rot in jail and if there was another way they will be sent to hell to burn forever. That child has been scarred for life, physically, psychologically and emotional. What do we say as members of society? Is jail time a deterrent enough for these people? What can we do to send a clear message that this cannot continue. Until we act in unison the message will never get across.