

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
MOTHEO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AT THE JUNE 16 DISTRICT RALLY
HELD IN VAN STANDENSURUS ON THE 13 JUNE 2007.**

The Mayor of Naledi, Ntate Motlohi,
Councilors present at this event,
The Provincial Chairperson of Youth Commission, Mr. Mahoa,
Members of Provincial Youth Commission present,
Youth leaders from fraternal organizations,
Youth in general,
Ladies and gentlemen,

When the district launched the youth month on the first of June 2007 at the hall in Dewertsdorp and on the second of June 2007 at Sports Ground in Dewertsdorp, I said:

“Botjha ke palesa ya bohlokwa mme re lokela ho e tshwara hantle le ho e hlokomela.”

Kajeno, re letsatsing la leshome le metso e meraro la kgwedi ya batjha, mme re matsatsi a mararo pele ho mokete wa letsatsi la June 16. Potso eo ke ipotsang yona ke hore, le le batjha ba naledi le motheo ka ho otloloha, ke eng seo le ithutileng sona le ho se etsa kgweding ena ya batjha?

When I look deeply into the challenges that we are facing as the nation in ensuring a better life for in this country, and further look into the participation and role of young people in contributing towards this objective; I realize that lot has to be done in ensuring youth participation and education on their role in making South Africa a better country to live on.

Programme Director, the young people of 1976 were faced with the same challenges facing our youth today rather in a different era of struggle. It was difficult for them to bring about transformation in an apartheid system where there was no freedom at all. The only major challenges they then were confronted with at their midst, was education and ending apartheid system.

These youth together with the generation of the 80s did their part. They contributed meaningfully to the realization of the freedom we enjoy today. They lived up to the test of time in ensuring the freedom in our life time

through participation and their response to the call made by the late Moses Kotane in the late 40s when he said: -

“At this hour of destiny, your country and your people need you. The future of South Africa is in your hands and it will be what you make of it.”

Today, we are faced with the challenge of nation building; the challenge that demands of youth to have skills and capacity to turn around the status quo and ensure accelerated service delivery in pursuit of bettering the lives of our people.

President Thabo Mbeki on his state of the nation address has called upon all government departments and the broader business community to ensure prioritization of youth development in their programmes and budgets in this financial year. The Deputy President has further unleashed the National Youth Service as a government programme for the year in ensuring youth development through both Jipsa and Asgisa.