

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MDM MMC: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, Me.
MAMOROKA MAELE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE YOUTH MONTH IN
NALEDI ON THE 01ST. JUNE 2007 AT MOROJANENG HALL**

The Mayor of Naledi, Ntate Motlohi,
Free State Youth Commissioner, Mr. Charles Prinsloo,
Leaders from fraternal organizations present today,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me Programme Director to begin by saying ‘Botjha ke palesa ya bohlokwa eo setjhaba se seng le se seng se ipelang ka yona.’

Today, the 01st of June 2007, we mark the 31st Anniversary of the Youth Month. As we meet, we are just about 15 days away towards the 31st Anniversary of Youth Day, June 16.

Letsatsi la kajeno, ke letsatsi hape la lefatshe la bana (international Children’s Day) hoya ka United Nations Organisation eo Afrika Borwa eleng setho sa yona. Ka hona, re lokela ho hlomamisa kgwedi ya bacha mmoho le ho keteka letsatsi la bana.

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, children are youth of tomorrow. I must say it is not a coincidence that we are launching the youth month while we celebrate the international children’s day; rather it is a befitting event.

Lately, we read and listen to news that are heartbreaking. We are told of children who are abused socially, economically and culturally. The world is no more a safe place for our children. Young girls are raped, beaten, emotionally traumatized, driven to the streets, and brutally murdered. Young boys amongst other forms abuse; are molested and forced to child labour.

Re lokela ho ema ka maoto ho tobana le phephetso ena ntle le qea-qeo ya letho mme re bue ka lentswe le le leng hammoho re re: HO LEKANE, HO LEKANE.

Batswadi ba lokela ho hlokomela le ho tshireletsa bana mme le ho netefatsa hore ditokelo tsa bona ha di hatakelwe ka maoto. Sena re ka se etsa ha re ka tlaleha diketsahalo dife kappa dife tse amanag le tlhekefetso ya bana sepoleseng le mafapheng a amehang a mmuso dibakeng tseo re dulang ho tsona le ho netefatsa hore tsohle tseo re di tlalehang mmuso o nka dikgato ka tsona.

In South Africa youth are referred to as people between the age of 14 and 35. This is a category of economically active sector of the society, educationally active and vulnerable to life challenges.

We need to take pride of our youth as a society by providing guidance and restoring societal values, norms and standards based on our African history as a nation.

President Thabo Mbeki has challenged the government in his state of the nation address on February that, youth must be prioritized in terms of

development both educationally and economically. Youth must be given employment opportunities and contribute fully in the economic growth and combating crime, poverty and unemployment.

As we heed to the call of the President, re lokela ke hona hore re kgothalletse mekgatlo ya batjha ho kena letsholong la ho fuputsa dipalopalo tsa batjha ba sa sebetseng empa ba phethile dithuto tsa bona dikolong le diuniversiting jwalojwalo ho latela dithuto tse fapaneng, batjha ba nkileng maikarabelo a malapa (youth headed families), ba sa itekanelang, dikarolo tsohle tsa batjha.

Once we did that, we shall be in a position of identifying where the need is and plan accordingly in addressing the needs of young people. We believe that, these could form part of processes building up towards the youth day commemoration.

Ha ke diela dikgala, ke rata ho ipiletsa ho batjha bohle ho ema ka maoto bakeng sa ntshetsopele ya setjhaba, kahong ya boetapele ba kamoso le ho netefatseng hore ditokelo tsa batjha di ya tshireletswa mmoho le tsa setjhaba ka kakaretso. E tsang bonnete ba hore selemo sena se fetoha sa ntshetsopele ya setjhaba ka batjha.

Batswadi, emang le tiye tataisong ya bana le batjha bana e le ho lokisetsa boetapele le tsamaiso ya puso ya hosane. Hopolang hore, bohle pele re eba batswadi, re bile bana le ho ba batjha ho fihle ha jwale boemong boo re leng ho bona.

Re hlokile monyetla wa tataiso e akaretsang, ka ha jwale re se re bone tsela, re titimile thota; a re emeng ka maoto ho tshehetsa bana le batjha ba kajeno ho fihlela tseo rona re sitilweng ho di fihlela. A re etseng sena lebitsong la naha ya rona ya Afrika Borwa.

Key a leboha!