

**MAYOR CLR MY MMAKOLA'S KEY NOTE ADDRESS TO THE
EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY YOUTH INDABA**

VENUE: TOWN HALL

DATE: 24 JUNE 2015

Program Director:

Members of the Ephraim Mogale Municipality Executive Committee

Honorable Speaker, Chief whip and Councilors

Maapara Nkwe

Municipal Manager, Directors, Managers and the Staff

Representatives from various Organised Labour (Unions)

Representatives from various Youth Structures (formations)

Representatives of Sponsors: Mining Sector , etc.

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dumelang, Lotshani, Goeie more, Good morning Ladies and
Gentlemen!

OR Tambo the long serving President of the African National
Congress once said "the children of any nation are its future. A
country, movement and anybody who does not value its youth and

children does not deserve its future". It is within this perspective that the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality valued the children and youth of this country, in particular young people from within its municipal boundaries, it is why it saw it correct to call this Youth Indaba under the theme "Youth moving South Africa forward". This is part of our commitment to remember the young people of this country who sacrificed their life, their education opportunity to fight the apartheid system in order to make sure that all of us who remained behind enjoying the freedom we have and to have a better life.

This Indaba is part of our commitment to honour the legacy of Youth of 76 and 86, the like of Comrades Ephraim Mogale and many more, who took it upon themselves to fight the apartheid regime. We are enjoy the fruits of freedom that was nourished through their blood today and it is important to celebrate their legacy through discipline.

One important commitment we should gun for as young people, as a young Tebello Mokoena once said "We need to come out of a mindset where we as youth wait for the government to do things for us. We need to liberate ourselves from our circumstances and take up opportunities that are available to us and build a better future for ourselves."

One of the key things young people should use to come out of their mindset is through education and skilling. It simply means that young people should go to school and learn so that we can have informed leaders in future who can face the challenges of technological development and be in the position to be innovative.

Our municipality regards education as the cornerstone of economic and community development in making a better life. As former President Mandela once said “this is a challenge to all of us that we need to assist our young people get educated in order for them to arm themselves with a weapon that will change this world”.

It is with this regard that the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality committed itself to continue providing bursaries for learners to continue with their tertiary education from its little financial resources. The municipality is doing this with the understanding that our education system in this country is built on the foundation laid and prepared 60 years ago by the ruling party, African National Congress (ANC) through the FREEDOM CHARTER.

Freedom Charter stated that “Doors of learning and culture shall be open”. Indeed, Program Director, The government has opened the door of learning to everyone in this country and this municipality will continue to assist young people who are willing and ready to arm themselves with education through the bursary scheme as already stated. As municipality we are committing ourselves to assist underprivileged learners to swell the tertiary institutions as part of making a better future and life for them. In short, we are saying “youth must go to school and arm themselves with education and skills that will contribute toward the economic growth.

Talking of economic growth Program Director, the Freedom Charter further stated that “the people shall share in the country’s wealth” and our understanding is that we should all commit to work and contribute towards the economic growth of the country and municipality, to be specific, and share the wealth thereof. The Freedom Charter does not say that others will work while others will just share, NO, we all have to work and share the wealth of the country.

The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in contributing towards job creations, empowerment of communities, particularly young people, and sharing of wealth. Through its Local Economic Development, it has launched the Youth and Women Cooperatives. The aim of those cooperatives is to empower both the young people and women to participate in the local economy that will make a better life for them. The Planning and Economic Development through its Economic Development Unit will hold Local Economic Development Summit to which all the government departments and agencies will be coming to empower and inform our community on all economic activities that will uplift their lives.

Realizing and noting that the young people are born with technology, the municipality will be reviving the Youth Centre and provide the internet connectivity that will allow the young people to research, apply for both tertiary institutions admission, and for jobs. We will further assist the community of Ward 8, Leeufontein through their Wi-Fi access to the same internet activities as pilot project. The municipality is planning to rollout this project to all its satellites offices (Elandskraal and Matlerekeng) and the municipality's newly built

community centers such as Mabitsi, Morarela, Uitvlucht, Driefontein, GaMmakola and Moomane, in future. The main challenges with this rollout, is not of the finance only, but also the security of those assets. This remind me of Freedom Charter stating that “there shall be Work and Security, Peace and friendship”. It is our responsibility that when the government, municipality in particular brings services that will uplift the life of the communities, young people go in front, lead in the process of providing security to protect them. We should take a lead in Community Policing in protecting both our communities against the thugs and the vandalisation of our infrastructure.

Program Director, please allow me to conclude by challenging this gathering to also discuss the strategies and tactics on the following”

1. Youth and education
2. Job creation through participating in the local economy
3. Security
4. Fight against Drugs that include Nyaope
5. Fight against the HIV/AIDS
6. Participation in Sports and Cultural Activities
7. The abuse of Social Media - access to pornography etc.

*“My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the fight.”-
Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, 6 April 1979*

Indeed the blood of young people like Cde Solomon Mahlangu has nourished the fruits of our freedom, the remaining hurdle is to continue for our fight for Economic Freedom

I thank you.