

**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF STEVE TSHWETE, CLLR MIKE MASINA AT THE MINING LEKGOTLA AT THE BANQUET HALL IN MIDDELBURG ON THE 01/11/2012**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA PROVINCE: DD MABUZA;  
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES: MS SUZAN SHABANGU;  
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: MS E MOLEWA;  
MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL & TOURISM: MR MN MOKOENA;  
MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT: MR SIPHOSEZWE MASANGO  
MEC FOR COGTA: MR MADALA MASUKU;  
MEC FOR EDUCATION: MS REGINA MHAULE;  
MEC FOR FINANCE: MS PINKY PHOSA;  
MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS: MS DIKELEDI MAHLANGU;  
THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: MR SK MASHILO;  
MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND MAYORS;  
CEO OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF MINES: MR BHEKI SIBIYA;  
CEO'S OF VARIOUS MINING HOUSING AND SENIOR MANAGERS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

On behalf of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, we are honoured to host a gathering of this magnitude.

We believe that the deliberations and decisions to be taken here will go a long way in the Development of our community.

Let me commend the decision to bring this important Lekgotla to mining hub of Mpumalanga, we have 25 registered mines operating within our municipal jurisdiction, yet the rate of unemployment is at 33.4%. It will be difficult for Government alone to address this challenge.

Programme Director, ours is a thriving municipality when it comes to service delivery to our community, however the unemployment rate gives us sleepless nights, it is spoiling our achievements as we are amongst the 13 municipalities in the country to receive Clean Audit report from the Auditor General. Amongst our Accolades we have just received is a Blue Drop Gold Award for the provision of clean water.

It was at this venue where our President JG Zuma delivered a Memorial Lecture on the life of the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the African National Congress, as part of the Historic Centenary Celebration of the Gigantic Movement, the oldest organization in Africa. As we are

gathered here in this Mining Lekgotla, we must be mindful of immense and selfless sacrifices by ordinary people and freedom activists across the globe. We dare not make a Mockery of their immeasurable contribution for the attainment of our freedom.

Let me draw your attention to the content of the book of James Chapter 5 from verse 3-4, it reads as follows: ***“Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment”***.

Verse 4: ***“For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies”***.

Other versions talk about corrosion of silver and gold as a result of selfishness and exploitation. The consequences become too ghastly to contemplate as corrosion haunts managers of the wealth.

In affirmation of this content, Dr Basil Tyron, in his book titled ***“Living Life at the Top”***, explicitly gives account of Global Recession and Economic Meltdown of 2008/2009 which is attributed to institutionalization of greed (Haggai 2: 6-7).

Dr Basil Tyron, further elaborates in another book titled ***“Faith to Inherit the World”*** where he stresses that, when Jesus Christ was nailed on the cross, not only was He freeing us from sins, but He was equally setting resources free to be utilized to the benefit of humankind.

By virtue of the two books by Dr Basil Tyron and the verses from the scriptures, we have divine authority to competently and justly preside over the God-given wealth to the benefit of humankind.

This Mining Lekgotla takes place at a time of uproar in the mining industry. It takes place when the atmosphere is engulfed and overwhelmed by hues and cries which if not properly managed, have a propensity to spill out of control, but thanks to the leadership provided so far under very trying circumstances.

As Steve Tshwete we are delighted and indeed privileged that a culmination of multipronged strategies to deal with structural defects of mining industry yielded among others, convention of this Mining Lekgotla and we are over the moon that it is taking place here at Steve Tshwete Municipality.

For the next two days we have ample time and opportunity to liberate our silver and gold from corrosion as later we are going to collapse into commissions and adopt resolutions which must make impact going forward.

It is incumbent upon this Lekgotla to reverse the curse that was imposed as a result of selfish utilization of wealth.

In closure Programme Director, allow me to quote the late Great Peter Tosh in one of the exclusive interviews on the Central Theme of his song titled “***Equal Rights***” where he says:”***Resources of the World must be evenly spread to address Man made inequalities***”.

On behalf of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, I bid you the warmest of welcome to our Greenest and Cleanest Town.

I wish you a fruitful Lekgotla

NGIYABONGA!!!