

**VOTE OF THANKS BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
CLLR JULIA MATHEBE DURING WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT HELD AT WARD 10
BAPTIZED CHURCH ON THE 24 AUGUST 2018**

The Director

Hon. Speaker of Limpopo Legislature Mme Polly Boshielo

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr S.M Ramaila

Kgoshi Mathebe

Honourable Speaker, Cllr Tladi

Chief Whip of council, Cllr Phahlamohlaka

Executive Committee Member

Honourable Councillors of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

Members of the Media

It gives me great pleasure and privilege to extend a cordial vote of thanks to all delegates, especially those that are from the outside borders of the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.

Programme Director, this imperative woman empowerment came at a time when women in South Africa are still commemorating their straggle icon, Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu whose centenary we celebrate this year was the President of the UDF during difficult times.

August has been proclaimed as the Women`s month which offers an opportunity for us to reflect on the distance travelled by the society in empowering women in terms of their substantive political rights.

In terms of security, access to reproductive rights, health, workplace equality and education amongst other indicators, we have made a tremendous progress since colonial and apartheid days.

We however, need to measure ourselves not just against the past but against the goals we set ourselves in resistance to oppression in the past.

The names of Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophie Williams will once again surface in public along with the images of the 1956 march itself.

This year also marks the centenary of the women's struggles. The Bantu Women's League which was the fore runner of the ANCWL was formed in 1918. Its first president was Charlotte Maxeke. Like Comrade Albertina Sisulu and Winnie Mandela, uMam' Charlotte Maxeke would have been the president of the ANC and the country. Much as we have made progress as women in South Africa, a lot still needs to be done. We have to close gaps and think strategically about what we have and always ask the pertinent question, of how that is going to change the quality of lives of women.

Programme director I rise on a simple assignment and that is to say thank you, 'SIYABONGA,'RE YA LEBOGA" to the provincial Parliament to visit Elias Motsoaledi.