

**WELCOME SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY CLLR SAMARIA MASHILO DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMENS
DAY HELD AT KGAPHAMADI SPORT GROUND**

Programme Director,

**Representative of the Premier, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mme
Nandi Ndalane**

**Representative of Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr. Orginia Mafefe
MagoŠi a rena**

Councillor present here,

Members of the Media

Members of the community

Good Morning/Dumelang

Good morning and welcome to Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.

**It is an honour and privilege to address this grant gathering on behalf of the Elias
Motsoaledi Local Municipality and the Mayor Cllr Julia Mathebe who could not be
here with us today as she is attending school at Johannesburg, I am delighted to
welcome you all to the this municipality that was named after, anti-apartheid activist
and one of the eight men sentenced to life imprisonment at the Rivonia Trial in 1963.**

**International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it
is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal
footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men
in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for
"liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage**

**Programme Director, the empowerment of women in South Africa is about
redressing the legacy of apartheid and colonialism; it's about the transformation of
society, particularly the transformation of power relations between women, men,
institutions and laws. It is also about addressing gender oppression, sexism, racism**

and structural oppression, and creating a conducive environment for women to make a difference in society

Gender Equality by 2030, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The government has made unprecedented advances, but no country has achieved gender equality. Fifty years ago, we landed on the moon; in the last decade, we discovered new human ancestors and photographed a black hole for the first time. In the meantime, legal restrictions have kept 2.7 billion women from accessing the same choice of jobs as men. Less than 25 per cent of parliamentarians were women, as of 2019. One in three women experience gender-based violence, still.

Let us make 2020 count for women and girls everywhere

In conclusion, Programme Director, I want to take this opportunity to once more welcome you to Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.

I welcome you, Thank you