

**ADDRES BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPLAITY
CLLR. JULIA MATHEBE, DURING THE YOUTH COUNCIL CAPACITY BUILDING
WORKSHOP HELD AT LOSKOP DAM ON THE 24 TILL 26 MARCH 2021.**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

WARD COUNCILLORS PRESENT

REPRESENTATIVES FROM PREMIER'S OFFICE YOUTH DIRECTORATE

REPRESENTATIVES FROM LEDA

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

REPRESENTATIVES FROM NYDA SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

REPRESENTATIVES FROM IEC ELIAS MOTSOALEDI OFFICE

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEDA

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH COUNCIL

ELIAS MOTSOALEDI YOUTH COUNCIL

GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR FIRST-EVER THREE DAYS YOUTH WORKSHOP TAKING PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS MUNICIPALITY.

ON BEHALF OF ELIAS MOTSOALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WE ARE GLAD TO HOST YOU IN THIS IMPORTANT MEETING THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT, WILL BE A SUCCESS.

WE ARE HOSTING THIS MEETING AT THE VERY CRUCIAL MOMENT, IN A MONTH IN WHICH WE COMMEMORATE HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE **21ST MARCH 1960**, THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE.

THE POLICE OPENED FIRE ON A CROWD OF UNARMED BLACK PROTESTERS OUTSIDE THE SHARVILLE POLICE STATION WHERE **APPROXIMATELY 69 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 180 INJURED**, WITH **MANY SHOT IN THE BACK** AS THEY FLED THE SCENE.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON, THE 21ST MARCH IS NOW A YEARLY HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN OUR COUNTRY.

THE CONVENING OF THIS INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR OUR YOUTH COUNCIL IS INTENDED TO BE USED TO ALSO REMEMBER THE VICTIMS OF OUR PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED BY THE APARTHEID REGIME FOR ACTIVELY SUPPORTING OUR LIBERATION STRUGGLE ON THAT CALLOUS DAY, 21ST MARCH 1960.

IT IS BECAUSE:

YOUTH RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

CHILDREN RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

WOMEN RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

THIS INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR OUR YOUTH COUNCIL IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN ADVANCING THE RIGHTS AND INTERETS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BECAUSE AS PRESIDENT OR TAMBO PUT IT: **ANY NATION THAT DOES NOT INVEST IN ITS YOUTH DESERVES NO FUTURE.**

THEREFORE, THE INDUCTION WORKSHOP FORMS PART OF AN INVESTMENT INTO THE YOUTH. IT IS A KEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THAT IS AIMED AT TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF OUR ASPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE BY EQUIPPING THEM WITH POWERFUL INFORMATION TO SUCCEED IN CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES THROUGH RADICAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND ACCELERATED SERVICE DELIVERY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS ELIAS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WE VALUE PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR MUNICIPALITY. YOUTH ARE THE HEART OF ANY SOCIETY AND REPRESENT THE BRAVERY DEMONSTRATED BY THE YOUTH LEADERS LIKE AS (THEN THEY WERE) IN THE PERSON OF **O.R TAMBO, NELSON MANDELA, SOLOMON MAHLANGU, HECTOR PETERSON** AND MANY COUNTLESS OTHERS WHO SHAPED THE COURSE OF OUR HISTORY AND USHERED A NEW, FREE AND DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION.

YOUTH LEADERS LIKE **SOLOMON MAHLANGU** GAVE UP THEIR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN ENJOY THE FREEDOM WE HAVE TODAY. THEY SACRIFICED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THEIR OWN DREAMS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN HAVE A DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL STATE.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

AS GOVERNMENT, WE THEREFORE HAVE A DUTY TO DIRECT ALL OUR EFFORTS AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THE SOCIO AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MUST BE AT THE CENTRE OF PROVIDING YOUTH SPECIFIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES THAT WILL LIBERATE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL FORMS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICES.

AS THE MUNICIPALITY, WE WANT TO BE PART OF THOSE SOLUTIONS BECAUSE, WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR AN EMPOWERMENT MODEL THAT WILL ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PRIORITISED AND INTEGRATED IN OUR IDP AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN WARD COMMITTEES, YOUTH POLITICAL FORMATIONS, CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY POLICING FORUMS, AND OTHER PLATFORMS OF DECISION MAKING. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN HISTORY IN ALMOST ALL SOCIETIES WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY YOUNG PEOPLE.

I THEREFORE HAVE AUDACITY TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE TAKING ACTIVE PART IN THE NATION BUILDING AND MAKE THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THE SUCCESS IT IS ENVISAGED.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN BRANCHES OF YOUR POLITICAL PARTIES, AND OTHER COMMUNITY STRUCTURES, NGO'S AND CBO'S, SGB'S WILL GO A LONG WAY TO STRENGTHENING OUR PEOPLE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

YOU MUST BE THE AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU TAKE THE BATON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR NATION, YOU WOULD CLAIM YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY.

IN THAT WAY, THE CLASS OF 1976, AND THE SPIRIT OF SOLOMON MAHLANGU, O.R TAMBO, NELSON MANDELA, HECTOR PETERSON, PETER MOKABA AND MANY MARTYRS OF OUR REVOLUTION SHALL LIVE ON.

IN CLOSING

HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDE OUR RIGHT TO VOTE. PLEASE EXERCISE THIS RIGHT IN THE UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS. YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.

YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE BECAUSE THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS.

TO THIS END, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP. AS GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH AND SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEIR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. LET'S WORK TOGETHER IN TAKING SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD.