

**COLLINS CHABANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

Since 2016



Keynote Address by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Her Worship, Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce during the 2018 Mandela Day Celebration which was held at Roadhuis Village of the 19th of July 2018 at 10h00.

- Programme Director, The Honourable Speaker of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Lebea ME;
- Honourable Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Chauke MG;
- Section 79 Chairpersons;
- Cllr Baloyi Always;
- Fellow Councillors;
- The House of Traditional Leaders present here – more in particular – the hosting Xigalo Traditional Council;
- Leadership of the African National Congress and other political parties represented here;
- Municipal Officials led by the Municipal Manager, Ms Ngobeni TC;
- The Xilaluke and Zitha families;
- Ward Committee Members;

- **Representatives from sector departments and government agencies;**
- **Builders of the two houses we are officially handing over today;**
- **Collins Chabane Chamber of Business;**
- **Collins Chabane Pastor's Forum;**
- **The Elderly Citizens Forums**
- **The Disability Forum;**
- **Traditional Health Practitioners Forum;**
- **NGOs and NPOs;**
- **Representatives from Vhembe Adopt a River;**
- **SANCO Members present here;**
- **Home Based Carers;**
- **Collins Chabane Tourism Forum;**
- **Collins Chabane Transport Forum;**
- **Organised Community Based Structures;**
- **Youth formations;**
- **Media Houses in our midst;**
- **Organisers and Entertainers;**

Good morning!

It is an honour and indeed a privilege for me to be accorded an opportunity to address you during this special event of Collins Chabane Municipality's Mandela Day Celebration. Let me start by indicating that as government in the constituent of Vhembe District, we began this commemorative events yesterday at Nwamatatana Village, where we were handing over a house to the Baloyi family, led by the District Executive Mayor.

But since this is not a once off event, we decided to come here today to celebrate Mandela and his values by continuing to advance his legacy and values of serving one another and uproot challenges of poverty and inequality. Today we meet here to officially hand over

two brand new houses to the **Xilaluke** and **Zitha families** under Ward 22.

These two families were living under unbearable conditions for a number of years. They had to withstand trials of climate changes and dire poverty because of lack of employment opportunities. We take note that there are other thousands of people who continue to live under these conditions across South Africa. But through working together with private partners and through our dedications as government, we will eventually release all our people from the chains of poverty.

The sole conviction of the ANC led government is to better the lives of our people and create a nation of people who are employed, equal and less discriminative. We know that the triple challenges of Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality have the potential to undermine the efforts of our forefathers – including Tata Madiba – who fought tirelessly for the defeat of apartheid.

Program Director,

I wish to take this opportunity to educate – in particular – the youth, about the true giant we are honouring today. Nelson Mandela was humble and peaceful. He had one thing in mind – to bring South Africa and Africa to a state of toleration. A state where we can live harmoniously without undermining each other and tormenting others. He was willing to undergo all adversities to achieve a dream of freeing Africans in the world community, so that they also can be recognised as equal human beings.

He sacrificed his youthfulness, his freedom and time with family. He even sacrificed his marriage for the betterment of South Africa and Africa at large. He went to exile and endured imprisonment for 27 years, just so you and I can be free. Upon his release from prison on 11 February 1990, he led the gospel of peace – which ascertained

those who oppressed and killed his fellow compatriots – that there would be peace in the transition from apartheid to democracy.

Because he was caring and full of hope, he began to actualise the resolves that the African National Congress was formed to address in 1912. He took cognizance of the generally conservative and conformist document which was declared at the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955. The Freedom Charter advocated for the total liberation of our land – and this is true – because it boldly dictates that ***“South Africa belongs to all who live in it.”***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today – as a country – we are faced with different enemies. Our youth face challenges of unemployment, lack of skills and in some cases, drugs and substance abuse, they become prone to pandemic diseases such as HIV and AIDS and STIs.

Our elders have challenges of their own. They are preyed upon by hooligans and monsters who lacks discipline and morals. They are subjected to terror by young children who are hopeless. They are robbed of their social grants – and worse – they are raped.

Women and children are being molested by the same people who are supposed to protect them. Statistics indicates that 2 out of 5 women are involved in abusive relationships, and this is really concerning.

These are some of the challenges that we are faced with as a country – 24 years since the inception of democracy. The ANC led government is however, doing all in its powers and reaching great strides in ensuring that these challenges are faced heads-on, and meetings of minds are held in order to completely liberate our people as we build a new South Africa and a better world.

Program Director,

It is our collective responsibility to be steadfast and resilient against these challenges of today as government and as community leaders,

in emulation of the good deeds of Tata Mandela. We must transform ourselves to become true servants of the people. Our government has already started – and it is evident with the policies that are put in place – but we cannot achieve this alone. We need the support of community members and community leaders to realise this feat.

We have started by concentrating on the primary factor of these misconducts, and we concluded that it was the lack of education by community members and poverty that endangered our communities, and our people. It is true what Mandela said that ***“when a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in... he has no choice but to become an outlaw.”***

Inspired by this and the Freedom Charter, the central government introduced a free Education Policy which covers all expenses. Our municipal Council has also adopted its Mayoral Bursary Policy which will be active with effect from the 2019 academic year. This Mayoral Bursary Fund will cover all expenses of meal, tuition, accommodation and books. This is our way of saying ***“We Have Heard You Madiba.”***

Indeed, when our society is educated, our ways of resolving issues will also be civilized. Mandela further said that ***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*** I therefore call on all the youth of Ward 22 and Collins Chabane Municipality, to work hard in their studies and take advantage of these opportunities, so that they can also form part of problem-solvers and not disruptors.

Program Director,

Today we have come to celebrate Mandela by officially handing over these two houses. As such, I wish to take this chance and appreciate Councillor Always Baloyi, for being always available to serve. He was always available during the construction of these houses to the end. His determination to alleviate poverty makes him a revolutionary, and as the ANC led government we are very proud of him.

There are many other ways in which we can celebrate and advance the legacy of Madiba. In his own words he said and I quote:

“It is in your hands to make of the world a better place. And so, every year on Mandela Day, we ask people around the world to take action and inspire change by making a difference in their communities.”

So, if you would like to donate your own time to public service, here are some things you can do to take action and inspire change:

- Make a new friend. Get to know someone from a different cultural background. Only through mutual understanding can we rid our communities of intolerance and tribalism;
- Read to someone who can't. Visit a local home for the blind and open up a new world for someone else;
- Help someone get a job. Put together and print a CV for them, or help them with their interview skills;
- Many terminally ill people have no one to speak to. Take a little time to have a chat and bring some sunshine into their lives;
- Get tested for HIV and encourage your partner to do so too;
- Take someone you know, who can't afford it, to get their eyes tested or their teeth checked;
- Donate a wheelchair or a walking stick to someone in need; or
- Buy a few blankets, or grab the ones you no longer need from home and give them to someone in need.

Lastly, as I conclude **Program Director**, allow me to appreciate everyone who assisted in beautifying these two houses; Mala FM; Community Members; other donors including those who donated with paints and by merely cleaning yard. ***Blessed is the hand that gives... than the hand that receives.***

May the values of Nelson Mandela inspire us to be the change that we want to see in our families, communities and the world. May God bless you all!

I thank you!