

**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
HER WORSHIP CLLR RAMAKHANYA LERULE MAVHUNGU DURING VHEMBE
DISTRICT WATER WEEK CELEBRATION ON THE 29TH MARCH 2019 AT
TSHIROLWE VILLAGE. 11H00**

THEME: “LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, WATER FOR ALL ”

Program Director

Mayor of Makhado Municipality Cllr Munyai NS and other local Mayors

Speaker of District Municipality Cllr Nkondo F

Members of Mayoral Committee present

All councillors

Thovhele Vho-Mphephu MM na Mahosi othe

Members of Vhembe Adopt a River

Members of Community Water and Sanitation Forums

Officials of Vhembe and from the Department of Water and Sanitations

Invited guests

Ndi masiari

It is a great pleasure to be given this opportunity to address you during this event on behalf of 1.5M citizens of Vhembe District Municipality. We are meeting here few days after we celebrated the Human Rights Day. For the resting spirits of those who died on the fateful day we must be able to double our effort to make sure that we really practice human rights amongst all our people as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. The establishment of this day was made in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environmental and Development World Water Day was officially assigned to 22nd March.

On an occasion such as this, we need to pay homage to those heroes and heroines of our people who paid for the liberation with their lives. Their names are forever etched on the scroll of our history and they will never be forgotten

The theme for this year's water week is "Leaving no one behind, water for all". Water is a necessity for human life, for nature and environment. Without it no living organism can have life. And the need to save water cannot be compromised.

Programme Director, every year the Department of Water and Sanitation celebrates National Water Week in our country during the month of March which also features the World Water Day. The primary objective of this campaign is to raise awareness among South Africans about the role of water in social and economic development including the need to get citizens to change their attitude towards water usage.

Programme Director, we are once again reminded of the responsibility that comes with living in one of the 30 driest countries in the world. Instead of looking to government for answers, many citizens should be questioning their daily behaviour in the usage of water. The bad news is that their areas in our country that facing a very serious water crisis especially in the area like Cape Town. Given the developments that are taking place in our country, the usage of water by each one of us becomes very crucial because of the low levels of rainfall most of the country receives.

The key is to find the optimum balance where water can be used for economic and social development and on the other hand to protect our water resources. This is especially relevant to this area with its beautiful natural water resources scenery and, on the other hand the rapid economic development that is occurring. Continuous sustainable development will bring much needed jobs, which in turn will reduce poverty and improves the lives of our people.

The challenge is to internalize the message that water in our country is a scarce commodity and that each of us has to play a role in the conservation and demand management of water. If we all start at our own are of influence I am sure that it will make a significant contribution to make water available for further development. As caring government we need not to leave no, one behind this campaign for water for all.

Programme Director, it is already estimated that millions South Africans currently have no access to potable water. And environmentalists have warned that if conservation efforts to maintain current water sources are not increased, the country may run out of water altogether by 2030. Before you throw your arms into the air and say, “here we go, another crisis”, consider the fact that there are many ways to make a difference.

Mutshimbidza Mushumo, our democratic government has embarked on water and sanitation programs which aim to make measureable and sustainable improvements in water supply, sanitation, hygiene and the overall environment in the communities we serve. It has further strengthened the capacity of relevant national, provincial, district and community stakeholders to perform their role in community water and sanitation service delivery management called water and sanitation forums. As a district we managed to established Community Water and Sanitation Forums in all our local municipalities. We need to raise awareness of the responsibility of the citizens in contributing towards long term sustainability of our water resources by curbing water wastage.

During this celebrations of Water Week, Vhembe District Municipality takes note of the global climate change challenges which are reshaping the way in which one thinks about themselves, the societies as well as humanity`s place on earth. Climate change is the environmental phenomenon, which has exacerbated the drought engulfing the country.

Climate change is one of the leading environmental conundrums faced in the 21st century. Its effects on the environment and human health are beyond imagination. Having been partnered with the Vhembe Adopt a River Forum, the forum has introduced to give proper environmental care; the environment these days is no longer favourable like the previous decades. There is a number of diseases that have just came from wastes and polluted products such as mosquitoes which hides it selves in the polluted substances or used tins and bottles, disposals are also found on top of the water at wells or springs and at

rivers, therefore the District Municipality, Department of water and sanitation and department of Environment is alerted about that such an extent that precautionary measures and protection of water to be made.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, this awareness came 25 years after the birth of our democracy and since then a lot of progress has been made, while more still need to be done for the betterment of our people. It has become apparent that our government funding alone cannot suffice to finance the necessary investment in the provision of water. We call upon the private sector to play a meaning role in this regard. I will not be doing justice if I failed to update you on the incoming projects which are phase two from Mutshedzi Purification plant to the villages around Nzhelele which include Mavhunga, Divhani, Gondeni, Makungwi and Mauluma for water reticulation. A tender has been advertised this week and from July this year, six contractors will be on side. We are urging our communities to cooperate with those contractors for them to complete the projects in time without any disturbance.

Lastly programme director, since the announcement of a new dawn by the President Ramaphosa from last year February, with a commitment to fight corruption and made a call for South Africans to join him on the famous lyrics of late Bra Hugh Masekela: "Thuma Mina". Thuma Mina lyrics call leaders to be there for the needy and any other valuable reasons. Gathered here today we are implementing his decisions of being there to our people at all the times.

For the first time in the history of our country, musi phalamenndeni hutshi ambiwa nga luambo lune nne na vhone ra lupfesesa, zwino ndi khaedu khulwane kha rine rothe u ita uri vhurangaphanda hovhu vhuswa vhu shume lolala nga thikhedzo yashu. One of our own from this region is ready to take the country forward. So on the 08th May lets go out in large numbers and vote correctly. Thatha Ramaphosa Thatha.

Ndi a livhuwa