



## **education and training**

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### **DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION**

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## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MEC LORATO LOUISA MABE, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN RUSTENBURG**

**09 AUGUST 2012**

### **PROTOCOL GREETINGS**

Wathint' abafazi wathint' imbokodo! You strike a woman, you strike a rock! Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for opportunity to share knowledge and wisdom with you on this remarkable day.

As a woman today, I feel we've walked a milestone in establishing our voices and sense of worth in this country and yet the journey is still too far. Black women have suffered a lot, firstly being black and, secondly, for being women.

Before I prolong my stay in this platform, I'd like us to once more congratulate our very first African Union Nations chairlady, Mme Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, for attaining a prominent seat. This means a lot to us, particularly as women that this sets the agenda to ignore the gender stereotypes and discriminatory barriers.

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***"STAND UP, TEAM UP AND REACH OUT"***  
***"A PORTRAIT OF EXCELLENCE"***

To keep the ball rolling, we as women must assert ourselves, because if we wait for men to do things for us, they will get us into business that give us 50% shareholding on paper, but in real terms, we are just tokens used for point-scoring for tenders.

In any partnership, women must fight for inclusion in operations and management of that business. Then that is positive contribution and personal growth, but mostly, it is victory for women in the country, especially Black women.

Programme director, for us to break the stereotypes more, I'd like us to look at ways that can contribute to our economy. There's more to talk about on women development besides fashion design, cookery and beauty salons. Indeed, they develop and grow us as women, but that's ordinary.

I like that talking about economy is not far fetched, especially looking at our province's ingenuity.

To talk more on these sustainable programmes, we have programmes such as Take a girl child to work, that we can utilize to help invest more in our young women.

I'd also like to invite concerned institutions and department of Agriculture to pass on agrarian skills to these young women to enhance the pride of our country.

It enthused me to see a young lady named Nosipho on the television programme, Idols SA (I believe we all like to watch) with a huge passion in the farming sector. Ladies and gentlemen, that we export meat from other countries is inexplicable, when we have the livestock, the farms and grazelands to feed our livestock. Imagine how that we'd improve our country's GDP.

We'd like young women to partake in scientific studies that'd grant them senior positions in the mining industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, I mention these resource because they in our territory. We are rich in marble mining, gold mining, Platinum mining, diamond ming, all in our small province. I'd like us in the next few years to see more women taking on geology programmes to study on these precious stones.

The educator in me relies on the notion that all these can be attained if we instill a mindset of braving the gateway subjects like maths, science and accountancy. This is the ticket for our future leaders to bridge the wage gap and improve in our economy.

It is a global agenda that we take core focus on women, because we are under represented. So keep on studying maths! And as more opportunities become open to women, that doesn't just enrich our own lives. As we all know, it enriches the life of this nation.

Thank you.