

**COLLINS CHABANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

Since 2016



Welcoming Address by the Honourable Speaker of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, the Honourable, Cllr Lebea Madume Elvis, during the 2018/2019 Ward Committee Conference at the Rest Lodge Mavambe, Village.

- **Program Directors;**
- **Her Worship, the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality in absentia, Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce;**
- **The Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Chauke Miyelani Gladstone;**
- **Section 79 Chairpersons and the MPAC Chairperson;**
- **Fellow Councillors;**
- **Traditional Leaders present here;**
- **Presenters of various topics;**
- **Officials from the municipality, led by the Municipal Manager, Ms Ngobeni Tsakani Charlotte;**
- **Representatives from Sector Departments;**
- **Ward Committee Members;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good morning!

It is my great honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to welcome you to this special event of the Collins Chabane 2018/2019 Ward Committee Conference which is held here at the Rest Lodge. This important session is organised under the month of August, which is a venerated month in the South African calendar and the global community at large.

During this month in South Africa, we commemorate the bold women who took to the streets of Pretoria and marched to the Union Building against the Pass Laws that sought to infringe the black population of their freedom of movement. According to this demonic law, black people were supposed to carry Dom Pass wherever they went, and these more than 20 000 women, led by Mama Lilian Ngoyi, Francis Baard and many others decided to take action and not just watch as their human rights were violated.

It is very saddening today, that the women who fought for both the complete emancipation of women and the liberation of this country, are being sodomised and abused by people who are supposed to protect them. Young women are raped and more that quarter of the women population in the world have to endure gender based violence.

During this month **Ladies and Gentlemen**, we call upon all of you, to stand up and say *“enough is enough with gender based violence!”* We invite everyone who know or suspect of any form of violence against women, to report such to the authorities, so that our country and the world can be free, and free indeed.

Program Director,

We are meeting here today to induct our Ward Committees who are an important leg of local government. I want to take this opportunity to thank my office and our officials for conducting the process that led to the election of members who are in this hall today. It was not an easy task to perform considering the amount of complaints that the

Office of the Speaker and the Municipal Manager had to deal with in order to resolve them.

We know that other complaints will emerge and we shall deal with them in order to create a conducive platform for the Ward Committees to function effectively. It is important for all of us to understand the role of ward committees in the context of local government.

Ward Committee is part of government's effort to deepen participatory governance where ordinary citizens must play active role in the affairs of local government. Their responsibilities will be stressed during the subsequent presentations, but I wish to indicate that chief to those is to ensure that communities are aware of what is happening around, and the programs which government and private sector are bringing in order to speed up the provision of basic services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that this Ward Committee Conference will empower us to do better than yesterday, and reenergize our commitments towards bettering the lives of the people who elected us. I therefore invite you to participate maximally for the success of this event.

On behalf of the Council of Collins Chabane Municipality, I welcome you on this journey which is exciting and on the other hand having challenges that will define our character and build residence. I wish you all the best.

I thank you!