

**COLLINS CHABANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

Since 2016



*Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor of Collins Chabane
Local Municipality during the 2018 Arbor Month
Celebration held at Maphophe Sports Ground under Ward
30 on the 11th of September 2018 at 10h00.*

Acknowledgement:

- **Program Director;**
- **The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Basikopo Makamu;**
- **The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Fhulufhelo Radzilani;**
- **Hosi Shilungwa II Mhinga;**
- **Other Traditional Leaders present here;**
- **Speakers and Chief Whips from our municipalities;**
- **MMCs and EXCO Members present here;**
- **The Ward Councillor of Ward 30, Cllr Chauke HG and Other Councillors present here;**
- **Representatives from Sector Departments;**
- **Municipal Officials under the leadership of the Municipal Manager, Ms Ngobeni TC;**

- **Non-Government Organisations;**
- **Collins Chabane Chamber of Business;**
- **Faith-Based Organisations;**
- **Youth Structures;**
- **Senior Citizens Forums;**
- **Organised Community Structures;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Morning

I am greatly honoured and privileged by this opportunity given to me to welcome you to this special event of Arbor Day Celebration which is organised here at Maphophe Sports Ground under Collins Chabane Municipality. This year's Arbor Day Celebration is celebrated under the theme: ***"Forest and sustainable cities."***

Arbor Month is celebrated annually in September to focus our attention on the importance of trees in our daily lives and to raise awareness about the need to plant and protect existing trees.

Tree planting should not be restricted to the celebration of Arbor Week only, but the campaign should be regarded as a culmination of what has been done throughout the year, regarding the greening of the country through the planting, care and maintain existing trees. Every day should be treated as a tree planting day.

Program Director,

This years' theme of Forest and sustainable cities, shows our commitment not only as government but as a sector that we are aware of the needs of the future generation. In doing this, we recognise the role of trees for environmental, social and economic benefit.

Government emphasises the need to build rural economy and create jobs. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with its vast access to forestry resources and skills as well as its ability to

facilitate integration of several government programmes across line functions, has an important role to play towards building the rural economy and thereby contribute in improving the living conditions of previously disadvantaged and poor communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Forestry has been identified as one of the high impact sectors in the economy with the potential to contribute positively to economic growth, foreign exchange, job creation, rural development and the development of Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs). The South African Forestry sector in the country is recognised as a high potential growth sector of the economy and an important development vehicle. One of its developmental attractions is that it is a rural-based activity offering opportunities to many of the poorest of the country's citizens living in rural areas.

Allow me **Program Director**, as I welcome you, to conclude by inviting the general community and other sectors such as business and Non-Government Organisations to join hands with government so that we can achieve our goal of greening the country. Government cannot do it alone and we need your support. Working together we can achieve greening of our country. During this Heritage or Arbor Month, let's contribute and plant a tree.

Please feel warmly welcomed!

I thank you!