



Welcoming remarks and Declaration of Partnership by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Her Worship Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce during the event of Gala Dinner in Commemoration of Dr SJ Khosa held on the 7th of July 2018 at 17h30 at Shingwedzi TVET College

- **To Masters of Ceremony, Dr JZM Sambo and Mna Serobi Maja;**
- **Political Leadership in Government;**
- **The Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality, Her Worship Cllr Mathebula Sasavona;**
- **The Chairman of the Board, Retired Commissioner, MW Ngobeni;**
- **The House of Traditional Leaders**
- **Fellow Councillors;**
- **The SJ Khosa Family and representatives;**
- **Sponsors of this wonderful ceremony;**
- **Speakers of various topics;**
- **Our Government Officials;**
- **Representatives from the African National Congress and opposition parties;**
- **Singers and radicals of Choral Music;**

- **The Collins Chabane Chamber of Business and other Business Formations;**
- **Our Special Program Forums;**
- **Our beloved Collins Chabane residents;**
- **Friends from the Media;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good evening!

I am very honored and privileged to be given this opportunity to welcome you to this special and important event of honoring one of our own, an outstanding figure with whom our pride is vested as residents of Collins Chabane, Vhembe District and the people of South Africa at large. We meet here to celebrate and honour the memories of a true gentlemen, and a legend of the Choral Music, Dr SJ Khosa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This special Gala Dinner is organized in a year which marks 24 years since the official declaration of South Africa as a free and democratic state in 1994, and it is fittingly commemorated conjointly with the centenary of both Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu who fought tirelessly for the liberation of our people from the hands of the oppressor.

Again this session is strategically organized during the Month of July, which is dedicated by the global community, as a month of extending a helping hand to those who need it most, the elderly, people living with all forms of disability, children, the sick and those who are vulnerable.

Program Director,

Tonight we celebrate a human treasure and a legendary composure of Choral Music – the late and great ***Dr Shalati Joseph Khosa*** – who truly asserted our African identity to the world. His life's objective was

to play a role and contribute to the advancement of arts, culture and the heritage landscape, which made him one of the custodians of indigenous knowledge. He lived with one great desire at heart – that of serving his people the best he could – through his art of music.

Dr SJ Khosa was an assertive, innovative and critical thinker. His musical prowess enabled him to achieve ground-breaking feats in choral music. He was almost peerless and any description of his prowess would exhaust all the superlatives.

I personally regarded him as a genius in the choral music fraternity. He was a blessing to the country's choral music and represented us both nationally and internationally. I also consider him a champion of the gist of what music can do to heal a broken world. His compositions brought a much greater message to everyone that would listen with better ears, look with better eyes – and indeed, enrich their lives with better hearts.

He was also a God fearing man, a motivator and a unifier, which was evident with his songs: such as *Vun'we; Ntwanano; Xikhongelo xa Hosi; If you work hard; Matimba ya vuyimbeleri* and many other great pieces he composed.

It is therefore, very important for us as government and as a community – to honour him, because of his vast contribution to the choral music community and to the art of music as well as the society's moral regeneration agenda. His ability to arrange pieces that healed souls has not gone unnoticed.

Master of Ceremony,

It is a general knowledge that choral music expresses the deepest parts of our humanity. It relaxes our minds, and it's a kind of an emblem for what we need in this world when so much of the world is at odds with itself. It is like a great oak that rises up from the center of the human race and spreads its branches everywhere.

It expresses, in symbolic terms, what it's like when human beings are in harmony. It also provides a social value as it brings people together – from all walks of life – with different backgrounds, beliefs and voices, to produce an extraordinary sound that gives us joy.

as I welcome you **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I would like to thank everyone in attendance, the sponsors, the choral music fraternity, choral music lovers and the rest of South Africa for honoring this giant, whom I am confident is conducting a big choir of angels in heaven.

May your souls be rejuvenated and your night be filled with the happiness that choral music brings. On behalf of council and the people of Collins Chabane Municipality, we declare this as the beginning of a much greater partnership that will afford us an equaling opportunity together with the Greater Giyani Municipality, to honour this phenomenal man.

You are all warmly welcomed to Collins Chabane Municipality. A municipality that gives birth to great legends and remarkable leaders. A municipality so rich with natural wonders and culture. May you all enjoy this evening.

I thank you!