

MAYOR OF KOPANONG MUNICIPALITY'S SPEECH ON NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT
EDENBURG TOWN HALL ON THE 09th AUGUST 2009

THEME : PRAYER FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR COUNTRY.

Programme Director

To day we have assembled here to pray for peace and stability in our country as we see there are riots all over the country. But at the same time it is a National Women's Day which can't be ignored.

National Women's Day is a day to commemorate women's struggle for change, to celebrate the progress which has been made towards improvement of quality of life of women.

As the nation celebrate the National Women's Day

We acknowledge that we still have a long way to go to achieve full emancipation of women from the hardships they have experienced because of the race, gender and social class.

Again we remember and pay respect to these heroines who braved oppression and took on the Strydom Administration in the name freedom.

Women had the most difficulty in accessing education, health and other basic services. Where there was no running water they were the ones who had to walk long distances to fetch water from the rivers for the use of the whole household. They were the ones to go into the bushes and collect woods for families with no electricity. Some women still face these challenges in their everyday lives

The fact that today is a women's day is evidence that women have made difference and that society recognizes the role that women has played as daughters of the oppressed in becoming mothers of the free.

The commemoration of Women's Day is proof that if you strike a rock the earth quivers and that woman are indeed imbokodo. "Wath'int'abafazi Wath'int'imbokodo".

We know the criminals including those who abused women depend on the people around them, Women as well as men keeping silent even though they reject what they are doing. The time has come to speak up and expose the criminals.

Only through partnership with police and those they serve will achieve peace and stability to which today August 09th we dedicated.

Let us join hands in response to the call of women for unity, peace, stability and development.

Equal power and glory to the women of South Africa.

I thank you.