

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT, MS. HAPPY JOYCE MASHAMBA,  
AT THE EVENT OF THE HONOURING OF THE  
HEROINES OF HOMU MINCEKA WHITE PROJECT,  
MAKOSHA COMMUNITY, GREATER GIYANI  
MUNICIPALITY.**

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**Programme Director;**

**The Executive Mayor of Mopani District  
Municipality, Cllr.**

**The Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality, Cllr.**

**MPL's here present;**

**Councillors here present;**

**Hosi Homu and other esteemed traditional  
leaders;**

**One of the main contributors of the project, Mr.  
Snyman and other members of the business  
fraternity;  
Heroes and heroines honoured here today;  
Beneficiaries of the project;  
Comrades and Friends;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
All protocol observed.**

It is indeed an honour to celebrate this auspicious occasion with women and men who have made a significant contribution to the history of the Limpopo Province as well as to the future of its people.

The women we are honouring today remind me of a quote by the late American psychiatrist and author Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, who once said and I quote:

**“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths.”**

Close quotes.

The Homu Minceka White Project is filled with such beautiful people, who have been selflessly ensuring the progress and wellbeing of their community for the past 22 years, without fail.

The vision and tenacity of the founders of this project, who saw a need to create assistance and opportunities for their sisters, transcends the political and socio-economic landscape of South Africa since 1992.

The ripple-effect that this success story has created in surrounding communities, is proof that, when we join hands together to uplift one another, success is inevitable.

Programme Director

The Department of Social Development is proud to be associated with initiatives that have in mind to protect and advance the rights of women and children and create sustainable livelihoods for the youth – to name but a few.

We are all fully aware of the current situation of unemployment among the youth. It is therefore imperative that opportunities are created for a long-term solution.

We have the seen the benefits in the past, of financial assistance to such projects and therefore the Department and government as a whole will continue to support initiatives that will ensure growth, development and sustainable livelihoods.

We further rely on the support of the business sector and the international community, to extend a hand of friendship in this regard. We take this opportunity to make a humble plea to our friends in the business fraternity to support initiatives that support and uplift communities, as part of their corporate social responsibility. In this way, we can ensure that we take South Africa forward, together.

Programme Director

The suffering endured by especially women in this country before the birth of our democracy, can never be reversed. During the past 20 years of freedom, we have seen both governmental and non-governmental institutions work tirelessly to place emphasis on the plight of women. Women have 50% representation in cabinet and top governmental positions. Women are rising to the top of their careers and are occupying the CEO seats in companies. Indeed, we have come a long way from 1956 when tens of thousands of women came together to peacefully protest a highly oppressive and unjust system.

However, if those women who have risen to the top, do not bend down and lend a helping hand to their sisters who remain downtrodden, their success will have been in vain.

Let the Homu Minceka White Project be a shining example of what can be achieved with selfless service to the community and creative development.

In closure, our wish is that the Homu Minceka White Project will go from strength to strength and that the reward to the heroes and heroines celebrated here today, are the smiles on the faces of the people of Limpopo, who have benefited from their selfless service to humanity.

Please join me in applauding the heroines and heroes of the project!

I thank you!

Mayihlome!

Khanimambo!

Ke a leboga!

Ndolivhuwa!