

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT THE  
EVENT OF CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK,  
NORTHAM PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING  
BOARDROOM, NORTHAM.**

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Programme Director;**

**The Executive Mayor of Waterberg District  
Municipality, Cllr. N.R Mogotlane;**

**The Mayor of Thabazimbi, Cllr. P.A Mosito;**

**Councillors here present;**

**Senior officials of the various government  
departments;**

**Representatives from Parastatals, NPO's, Faith Based Organisations, Youth Organisations and Student Representative Bodies and other role players in the JCPS Cluster;**  
**Members of the media;**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen;**  
**All protocol observed.**

Today we once again see government in action - a government who believes in dialogue on issues affecting society on a daily basis. This coming together of various structures to discuss a sensitive issue is proof yet again that we believe in cooperative government to ensure the creation of peaceful, progressive and self-sustainable communities.

Programme Director

Victims' Rights Week was born from the adoption of the Victims' Charter, which has in mind to: eliminate secondary victimization in the criminal justice process; ensure that victims remain central to the criminal justice process; clarify the service standards that can be expect by victims when they come into contact with the criminal justice system and to make provision for victims' recourse when standards are not met. In short, it protects the constitutional rights of persons who have been the victims of crime and violence in such a way that their dignity is upheld. It further gives them the right to privacy, fairness, protection, assistance and information.

Too many times do we hear of horror stories where especially women are the victims of serious violent crimes, but