

Director of proceedings, our guest of honor Executive Mayor, Mr Vara, Chief whip Mr Cetu, management, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all this afternoon on this important day, celebrating, reflecting with appreciation, a brave action taken by a diverse group of women 66 years .

Allow me to dedicate this day to women who were there before us, ooMam' uPlaatjie, Tsewu, Nzuzo, women who, side-by-side with men dedicated their lives to liberate our country from the shackles of brutal apartheid government. In the same breath let us not forget those who were amongst the first councillors of Grahamstown Transitional Local Council, the likes of Mam' uPlaatjie, Mpahlwa, Mmango, May their souls rest in peace, etc.

Program Director, our guest of honor, chief whip,  
allow me to reflect on the importance of the

August the 9th 1956 which as South Africans we dedicate the month of August as the Women's Month, characterised by many festivities e.g. learning events, conferences, etc. The month is intended to mark and celebrate the historic 1956 Women's March by 20 000 women denouncing the pass laws, charging to the Union Building to the apartheid Prime Minister JG Strijdom. In one voice, " Wathint'abafazi wathint'imbokotho! Strijdom uzakufa." loosely translated, "You strike a woman you strike a rock," Indeed history attests that he collapsed and died within few days after receiving that petition. Taking the opportunity that we are situated at a university town, I want to request the Mayor's Office in collaboration with Rhodes African Languages and or Anthropology Department to investigate and contextualise whether imbokotho is a rock or a grinding stone.

Program Director, our guest of hono, chief whip,  
the Women's march of 1956 was not the first one, there was one that took place in 1913 in Orange Free State led by the likes of Mam' uCharlote Maxeke, Cecilia Makiwane, etc. This march is not always quoted, but it did happen during the height of repressions, however the 1956 one was big and consisted of a diverse group of women, in terms of age race, class e.g Lillian Ngoyi, Sophie Debruyne Hellen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu and there was a fifth one Mam' uLillian Diedrichs, but for some reason, she is not included amongst the leaders above but there is a picture showing that there were 5 leaders and she has attested to that. This incident confirms what Ms Bathabile Dlamini, former ANCWLP President said at Mam' uWinnie Madikizela-Mandela's funeral that as women, we need to write our history to guarantee accuracy and feminist tone. I am

encouraged to challenge the executive Mayor and Cllr Cetu as the Chief Whip, in celebration of Makana female political activists cited above to consider honouring them by naming certain prominent spaces after them, what is stopping us from naming this very City Hall, the Council Chamber, Mayor's Palour, the Church Square, etc. after each of them? Our hospitals still carry history of dispossession and buildings such as 1820 Settlers Monument. We have many female leaders from this very province, the Home of the Legends, which we have not celebrated as Makana, uMam ' uWinnie, who single-handedly ensured that Mandela's name was not forgotten. Let's not push them to the periphery of our heritage and name certain some unknown street after one of them. Before we know, a man will be honored, we have Makana, Makhanda, a man.

Program Director, our guest of honour, chief

whip,

Coming back to the 9 August 1956, we need to pose this question, Why women marched against pass laws? The repressive law broke family units, restricted free movement by indigenous people in their own land, it was a way of ensuring that we were registered, meaning that we had to have surnames and "Dom pass" you had to have it wherever you go. Women could not visit their migrant worker husbands without this oppressive document, until they took up to arms to challenge it.

"Wathint'abafazi, Wathint'imbokotho. "Women said, "Phantsi ngepasi " as we normally express abhorrence nowadays. Why this history? My introduction as today's speaker covered a bit of my history and that of my generation, the Enyobeni which, on social media platforms reflected how our children born during the 2000s popularly known as 2k's, know very little or nothing of where we come from as

the country. Can we therefore exploit every platform and raise awareness about certain pieces of our history. I'm doing just that, with beautiful teens from Khutliso Daniels, entertaining us with their beautiful voices today, thank you.

Program Director, our guest of honor, chief whip,  
The 2022, Women's Day Theme, "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience". The theme is a strategy towards achieving gender equality by 2030 (2030 Agenda) and AU 2063 Agenda, this Theme seeks to highlight or encourage us to think creatively, in this context, talking with female employees of Makana Municipality, how we ensure that we preserve institutional memory without compromising absorption of new blood. "Umqobothi, irhewu libiliswa ligwele," intergenerational mixture is

essential, without elbowing out anyone. As the institution, we need to look at how we promote gender disaggregated intergenerational mixture/succession planning, using the existing laws and policies, e.g. Affirmative action, Employment Equity, Sexual Harrassment at the workplace policies, etc. as stepping stones. Maybe we need to take stock, and see how we are doing as the institution in terms of recruiting and appointing young women, while retaining and preserving institutional memory. Let's do away with the popular, "mdala lo mama, makayokunesa abezukulwana bakhe," a sad statement from a unionised environment, where one thinks looking after grandchildren is not "work". We can't afford to look at it with capitalist eyes, looking after grandchildren is "work" let alone capitalism does not classify it as such, hence compensating poorly, if it does.

Program Director, our guest of honor, chief whip,

Are we, as women, young and senior able to identify opportunities at the workplace? Are we familiar with the policies and laws I have cited above, If no, why? Let me share possible solutions to consider;

1) Empower yourself by studying upgrading your educational standards, improve yourself, know laws and many other institutional laws and policies meant to empower you - read!. Information is power, do you think being uninformed, can you be able to make the system work for you? Can you challenge unfairness?

2) identify a veteran who carries your values as a mentor, veterans should be ready to mentor, let's not use the honor as source of bullying.

As the institution, can we consider having a mentoring program, this can be done by reviving the erstwhile "Women's Forum," with

clear terms of reference, and resources  
Hopefully the forum will help to build  
confidence of a timid sister. Perhaps HR can  
consider that.

3) Support and celebrate sisters succeeding,  
let's not fail "Pull her down" PHD cum laude  
syndrome, at times men use us to make a  
sister to fail.

4) HR make workplace work for women, e.g.  
we want young women to join our ranks, to  
enable them to perform, grow as  
professionals, let's consider having child-  
minding, for after school and school holiday  
care facilities. We know Municipality work  
demands, long working hours, evening  
meetings, etc, however from our side, we  
should be able to trade off monetary benefits,  
like overtime, which I think as child rearing  
mothers, it won't be as important as having  
your children at your workplace, safely next to  
your office well looked after.

5) refuse to be part of maladministration , it

will compromise you, it takes two to tango, you might end up being a fall guy, earn your salary don't draw it, be that new civil servant.

Program Director, our guest of honor, chief whip,

to round off my input, allow me by you that I proposed the following:

1. Naming of certain buildings and facilities after our local female icons(see above);
- 2) establishing Makana Municipality Women's Forum( officials only),
- 3) Establishing well resourced dependable Child minding facilities

Program Director, executive mayor, chief whip,

I wish to thank you for this opportunity, to engage with the talent and iimbokotho, true the future is young, the future is female at Makana.

Thanks