

Hon. Mayor of Mamusa Local Municipality

Hon. Councilors, MMC's And Ward Committee Members Present Here Today

Administrator in the North West Department of Public Works and Roads,

Management and employees of the Department

Esteemed Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A good morning to you all.

Today marks 43 years and 9 days since the historic 1976 June 16 Soweto uprising which is now commonly known as Youth Day. This day highlights the pivotal role of youth in the fight against oppression, and as a country Youth Day is celebrated as a public holiday. In order to fully pay respect to the invaluable contribution of young people in the attainment of the democracy we enjoy today government dedicates the whole month of June to commemorate efforts of the young heroes and heroines of June 16 1976.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Provincial Department for Public Works and Roads we commemorate this eventful day under the theme: "Celebrating 25 years of youth activism", in this lovely town of Schweizer-Renecke

famously known as the City of Sun Flowers where notable leaders such as Ahmed Kathrada and Essop Pahad were born.

Honourable Mayor, the Departments presence here today is not by mistake we have taken into cognizance the pivotal role played by this town in producing leaders of note who went on to contribute to the national discourse. We are deliberately doing this to remind young people of this municipality of the invaluable contribution made by their forbearers and the huge responsibility that this contribution placed on their shoulders.

Ladies and gentlemen, this event today marks the departments commitment to giving effect to the pronouncement of the state president in his state of the nation address, I quote "by 2030 two million more young people will be in employment". In response to this The 6th Administration, intends to create 198 286 work opportunities for the next 5 years with provincial departments expected to create 125 957 work opportunities whilst municipalities create 72 329 work opportunities.

To this end, we will continue with the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme in order to maximize labour intensive methods to create job as we deliver services to the people of North West. The Extended Public Works Programme is a mechanism intend to skill young people for the workplace as either employees or employers. I am deliberately highlighting the objectives of the Extended Public Works

Programme as our young people have a tendency of depending entirely on the programme and thereby failing to seize other developmental opportunities.

The Department is working with the Office of the Public Protector to resuscitate the contractor development programme with 61 contractors having been awarded practical training contracts to the value of R 140 million for social and roads infrastructure projects. This programme aims to provide a platform for North West contractors to be developed in line with Construction Industry Development Board Contractor Development Programme requirements. Through this programme emerging contractors, amongst them young people, are given business opportunities to develop and grow their gradings.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have heard from beneficiaries of the Departments Vukuphile programs who gave an account of their good experience and what they gained from the Department. In growing South Africa together, let all young people take note of the opportunities presented to them by the Department and the Government as a whole and remember the sacrifices made by the youth of 1976 in ensuring that the government of the day is able to prioritize the youth and direct resources to them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in our efforts to create opportunities for youth, government will also support the implementation and expansion of the National Youth Service Programmes that are targeted for skills transfer, experiential learning and capacity building. In July 2019 government would launch Phase 4 of the Expanded Public Works Programme watch this space.

I thank you.