

**VOTE OF THANKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA, DURING THE RURAL CAREER GUIDANCE EXHIBITION IN BETHLEHEM**

26 APRIL 2012

Programme Director

Free State Premier Honourable Ace Magashule

MEC of Education Mr Tate Makgoe

Executive Mayor of Dihlabeng Local Municipality Councillor Tjhetane Mofokeng

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Traditional Leaders and Councillors

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen,

Poverty, being underprivileged and living in rural areas cannot define our youth because our youth possess skills, talents; abilities, desire and willingness to change their own circumstances. All they need is guidance, opportunities, self-esteem and a winning attitude to propel them to greater heights.

A Liberian refugee and founder of “Vision Awake” African For Development, Karrus Hayes, attests to this when he says, *“to define people by their conditions rather than their abilities is dehumanizing. When you look past the poverty, you see abilities, resources and desires. The poor are extremely hard-working and entrepreneurial – they must be just to survive. They don’t want or need to be rescued. They want an opportunity to create a better life for their families.”*

Programme Director, it is through programmes such as rural career guidance exhibitions that the youths will begin to realise an avalanche of opportunities available to them and to start believing in their own abilities to reach out for their dreams. Such programmes are also able to unlock the potential of our youth.

Ntle le pelaelo ya letho motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, batjha ba rona ba na le bokgoni, ba bohlale, ba na le matla kapa *energy* e ngata eo e kareng ha e ka tjhanelwa hantle e ka ba tswelang molemo o moholo mme ba kgona ho ba le bokamoso bo tjhatsi.

Botjha ke letlotlo la sebele leo setjhaba se seng le seng se ikgantshang ka lona, mme le rona kahare ho Foreistata re motlotlo ka lona batjha. Ke ka hona re ratang ho le bona le tswelletse pele le ruteha, le fumana mesebetsi le bile le iqalla dikgwebo tsa lona. Kajeno ke letsatsi la lona la hore le ithuele tsebo yohle hore le tle le hlalefe mme le tsebe ho atleha. Tsebo e na le matla a ho o aha le ho o tataisa bophelong. Tsebo e o ruta tlhompho le boikokobetso. Hape tsebo e kgona hore o bone phapang mahareng a botle le bobele. Ebile hape thuto ke senotlolo le letlotlo leo ho seng motho a ka le amohang lona.

Programme Director, we will be forever grateful to the Free State Premier Honourable Ace Magashule for spearheading this programme that has afforded our rural youth an opportunity to recognise doors of opportunities that are available to them.

We therefore urge the youth to make use of this opportunity and begin to pursue their dreams.

As we will be celebrating Freedom Day tomorrow, let this freedom, that we fought so hard for, be a reality for you our young people as you begin to change your attitude and beginning to take charge of your destiny rather letting somebody else decide for you. The future is in your hands.

In thanking all of you – programme director, political leadership, honoured guests, organisers, participants, officials, exhibitors, entertainers and the audience let me quote from the Scriptures in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 9 verse 11, “The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.”

I thank you all.