

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S ADDRESS AT THE CERTIFICATION CEREMONY FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN IT SPONSORED BY PWMSA AND BYTES: 17 AUGUST 2013**

The Leadership of the Progressive Woman's Movement of South Africa, PWMSA

Our sponsors from BYTES Information Technology Company

Our Councilors and other Community leaders present

Our beautiful graduates and parents

All our guests

Ladies and Gentle men

Today we pay tribute to the women of South Africa because of the central role they played in liberating this country. These heroines did not merely play a supporting role to men, but acted as a conscious and militant force of the liberation struggle, even sacrificing their own lives so that we could be free.

Accordingly, any process which, consciously or unconsciously undermines the full emancipation of women is fundamentally hostile to our objective of building a South Africa that is democratic, non-racial and non-sexist and which truly belongs to all the people.

Clearly then, it is important for all of us as South Africans, to answer the question whether we are doing enough to build a South Africa that truly belongs to all, whether we have made any progress with regard to the issue of the emancipation and empowerment of women.

It is important that we do not just talk about women empowerment because it is fashionable to do so.

## **Program Director**

It is a pleasure as always for me to be part of this joyous occasion, as our grandaunts and our women leadership reap the fruits of their labour.

It is a joyous occasion indeed given the fact that we know that some of our new graduates had to overcome many obstacles to reach this point

No matter how your parents and your government always strove to send you to school, education is one instrument that would extricate our people from poverty.

At the Regional and Provincial policy level, we value education also because it is a powerful tool in our goals of transforming and rebuilding our economy, and ensuring the kind of economic growth that will create jobs and assist us in the eradication of poverty and hunger. It is an instrument that will enable us to participate fully in the global arena, and be active participants in bilateral and multilateral engagements with the outside world.

## **Program Director**

The IT graduates have many opportunities ahead of them, as the transformation of the economy continues in earnest to ensure that all South Africans, especially young women participate fully.

As we celebrate the month of Women, our young women graduates should be mindful of the need for skills development in our Region. We urge you to make your contribution in the development of the scares technical and IT skills that our public and private sectors desperately need

We are today celebrating with the graduates in the area of Information Technology. We invite you to take up the challenge of

contributing to the task of growing our economy so that we can respond decisively to the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment.

We should further engage the private sector so that they also source their services and products from women-owned and managed businesses, taking the necessary measures to promote, mentor and empower business women.

In addition, we have a duty to work with employers and trade unions so as to bring to an end the continuing sexual abuse of working women at the work place as well as those seeking employment. Undoubtedly, women will never be fully emancipated if their human rights are violated.

### **Program Director**

We therefore have a duty, as a nation, to unite against the marauding animals that rape and abuse women and children and continue to shelter in our communities.

Oliver Tambo was one of the best mathematics and science students in his schooldays, he obtained Bachelor of Science degree and later an Education Diploma and taught for a few years, he later changed careers and obtained a law degree.

Our message to you is that you must learn from this heritage and follow in the footsteps of these luminaries and use your education for the betterment of society

We are all very proud of you indeed.

We need to remember that the actions of each individual counts, this is a titanic battle that needs the contribution of all of us.

Once again, congratulations to all our IT graduates, our future, our youth. You have worked very hard. You deserve this victory.

Congratulations to the Progressive Women Movement of SA in the West Rand Region and our parents and the sponsors, BYTES we extend our sincere thanks to you all.

**I thank you**