

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ACTING MAYOR, EXCO MEMBER CLLR MTLOKWA
DURING EXXARO 4IR PROGRAMME HELD AT MOGOL CLUB HALL ON 28
AUGUST 2019

Protocol observed.

It is a great honour for me, as a man, to welcome women to a women's event during the women's month.

This month is very important to us as it reminds us of the 1956 women's courage and strength. It is the month that reminds us of the more than ten thousand women who marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the violation of human dignity that was imposed to women through the pass laws.

The democratic government of South Africa has declared August as Women month to honour the generation of 1956 women. Many institutions host women's events in August every year. But as we sit in here today, let me emphasize the words of the editor of the Mail and Guardian, who warned us not to turn Women's Day into some kind of Valentine's Day. Some of us who read newspapers have obviously seen this comment by the editor, under the heading: "Women's Month Misread." As I welcome you in this event, I request that we must avoid the temptation of turning this event into some kind of Valentine's Day. I am just impressed by the fact that this event is all about Women in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is a very important topic indeed. Director of Business Development for Europe, Asia and Africa, Chris Venter, wrote in the Star newspaper of this Monday that : "More than any other Industrial revolution that has come before, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has humanity at its core." I agree with him.

The first Black woman judge, a retired judge of the Constitutional Court, former judge Yvonne Mokgoro, made a passionate plea to women of South Africa to make their presence felt and leave footprints in the fourth Industrial Revolution. When addressing the Women's Month event hosted by the International Commission of Jurists and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, on 14 August this year, Mokgoro started by quoting the recently



deceased American novelist Toni Morrison, who said that if there is a story that women want to read, that story hasn't been written yet, then women must write it. I believe Exxaro and our local women want to read a story about the Women in the fourth Industrial Revolution, and that story hasn't been written yet. Because that story has not been written yet, we are writing that story here today. We must take this event very serious because we are writing a story here. Lephalale Local municipality is here to offer our support to you as you write the story of women in the fourth Industrial Revolution. We are happy that you decided to write this story on a very important month – AUGUST.

South African Women have written different stories in August, in different years. The 1956 Women wrote important women emancipation story in 1956. Zola Budd wrote a sports story on 26 August 1985 as the first South African athlete to break the world's five thousand metres record. Penny Heynes also broke two hundred metres breaststroke in Pan-Pacific Games in Sydney on 26 August 1999. Lephalale women are writing women economic emancipation story in the Fourth Industrial Revolution on 28 August 2019.

I THANK YOU.