



**WELCOMING ADDRESS: THE MAYOR OF RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR: CLLR  
TEBOGO MODISE: IMBIZO FORTNIGHT OF ACTIVISM ON CHILD LABOUR: THUTLWANE  
COMMUNITY HALL: SETLAGOLE: 23 NOVEMBER 2018: 09:00**

THANK YOU THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR;

THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, INKOSI PHATHEKILE HOLOMISA  
DIKGOSIKGOLO TSA MOROLONG TSE DILENG FANO

REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS SOCIAL PARTNERS;

LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING OUR CHURCHES AND BUSINESS HERE TODAY.

SPEAKER AND COUNCILLORS OF RATLOU WITHIN OUR MIST

BAAGI BA RATLOU BA BA LENG FA

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WITHIN OUR MIST,

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FARMERS AND FARMERS UNION IN OUR AREA;

LABOUR FEDERATIONS AND UNIONS

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIC ORGANISATION

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GEMTLEMEN.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, THE TOPIC OF TODAY IS A VERY DELIGATE, A TOUCHING MATTER THAT WILL ALWAYS AROUSE IMOTIONS WHEN UNDER DISCUSSION. THIS IS THE MATTER AFFECTING DISTITUTE AND POOR OF THE POORESTS FAMILIES, IT IS A MATTER THAT AFFECTS CHILDHEADED FAMILIES, A MATTER THAT AFFECT UNEMPLOYED AND SINGLE MOTHERS OF OUR SOCIETY AND ALSO A MATTER THAT AFFECT THE FUTURE LEADERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER, AS RATLOU, WE ARE A MUNICIPALITY WITH HISTORY OF NOT ONLY CHILD LABOUR,THERE ARE QUITE A NUMBER OF SOCIAL ILLS AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITIES RANGING FROM HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, HIGH RATE OF ILLITERACY, POVERTY, TEENAGE PREGNANCY AS WELL AS CHILD LABOUR, THE MAIN REASON FOR TODAY `S GATHERING.

AS THE MAYOR OF THIS MUNICIPALITY, I AM HERE REQUEST TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR MUNICIPALITY AND PARTICULARLY TO THIS SESSION, HOWEVER I WILL BE DOING UNJUSTICE TO THIS GATHERING AND YOUR GOOD-SELF DEPUTY MINISTER, IF I DO NOT TAKE YOU THROUGH A SHORT BACKGROUND OF WHERE WE CAME FROM WITH THIS ISSUE OF CHILD LABOUR IN OUR MUNICIPALITY AND COMMUNITIES AT LARGE, WHAT CHALLENGES ARE WE FACING AS THE COMMUNITY OF RATLOU, WHAT SOUGHT OF INTERVENTION AND OUR EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD.

I THINK IT REMAINS OUR DUTY NOT TO FORGET THAT WHAT BRING US HERE TODAY IS THE FACT THAT IN THE PREVIUOS YEAR, WE HAD TO COLLECTIVELY RESCUE AND RETURN MORE THAN FIFTY, (50) CHILDREN FROM THE FREE STATE PROVINCE AND REUNITE THEM WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN MADIBOGO AND SETLAGOLE VILLAGES RESPECTIVELY. THE MINORS WERE EMPLOYED AS LABOURERS BY A FARMER AND THROUGH OUR INTEVENTION IN CONJUCTION WITH THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE, MEC HOFFMAN GALENG, THE KIDS WERE RESCUED. THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, AS INTERVENTION MEASURES AND OUR ENDEAVOURS, WE RECOMMENDED THAT THE CHILDREN BE PLACED IN A PLACE OF SAFETY WHERE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REGAIN THEIR CHILDHOODO, UNDERGO COUNSELING AND FURTHER BE PLACED IN LEARNING ENABLING ENVIRONMENT. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN THEN THAT THOSE CHILDREN WHO NEED CARE AND STILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, BE TAKEN TO MAHIKENG (**ONKGOPOTSE TIRO COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**) THE INSTUTION CATERS FOR CHILDREN FROM NEEDY FAMILIES AND ARE OF SIMILAR NEEDS LIKE THOSE THAT WE REFERRED TO. HOWEVER THE CHALLENGE WE HAD WAS AND IS STILL THAT OF JURISDICTION AS IT CATERS

ONLY FOR CHILDREN FALLING UNDER THE FARMING AND POOR COMMUNITIES THAT ARE FROM AREAS CLOSETED TO THE SCHOOL. IN OTHER WORDS WE COULD NOT BE COVERED. THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER, AS A COMMUNITY MOST PROBABLY WE DO NEED INSTUTION OF SUCH NATURE IN OUR COMMUNITY IF WE REALLY WANT TO SEE THESE YOUNG CHIDREN HAVING EDUCATION THAT WILL BE KEY TO BETTER FUTURE AND ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY THAT IS RAVAGING OUR SOCIETY.

AS GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE, A TEAM OF SOCIAL WORKERS WERE THEN DEPLOYED TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING TO ADULTS AWAITNG ANOTHER GROUP OF THE 19 CHILDREN WHO WERE TO BE RETURNED FROM FREE STATE.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR I MUST MENTION THAT, A CASE INVOLVING CHILD LABOUR HAD SINCE BEEN OPENED AGAINST ONE FARMER FROM WESSELSBRON (DRIE HOEK FARM) FOLLOWING THAT INCIDENT. MOST OF THOSE MINOR CHILDREN WERE TAKEN FROM SETLAGOLE, MADIBOGO, DELAREYVILLE AND MAKWASSI TO WORK AT HIS FARM AND CONTINUALLY SUBJECTED TO MISTREATMENT AND PROVISION UNPROPER FOOD AND UNREASONABLE WAGES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR CHALLENGES REMAINS THAT SOME OF THOSE CHILDREN ALLEGEDLY STIIL RETURNS TO FARMS IN FREE STATE AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY DUE TO

LACK OF CARE, POVERTY AND STARVATION AND AS SUCH WE FIND OURSELVES RETROGRESSING INSTEAD OF FINDING LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

AS THE MAYOR, I HOPE THE VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER AND ALL OF US HERE, WILL EMERGE WITH BETTER IDEAS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS MONSTER CALLED CHILD LABOUR AND IN THE SPIRIT OF TATA MADIBA MANDELA AND MAMA ALBERTINAH SISULU, OUR STRUGGLE STOLWARDS AND ICONS THAT FOUGHT FOR OUR LIBERATION AND AGAIN IN THE SPIRIT OF “**THUMA MINA CAMPAIGN**” AS ENVISAGED BY OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT CYRAL RAMAPHOSA, WE WILL WIN THIS WAR ONE DAY THE SAME AS WE FOUGHT AGAINST THE MIGHT OF APTHEID.

WITH THIS NOTE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR LET ME WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT GATHERING. LO AMOGETSWE BAGAETSHO. **I THANK YOU.....KEALEBOGO**

