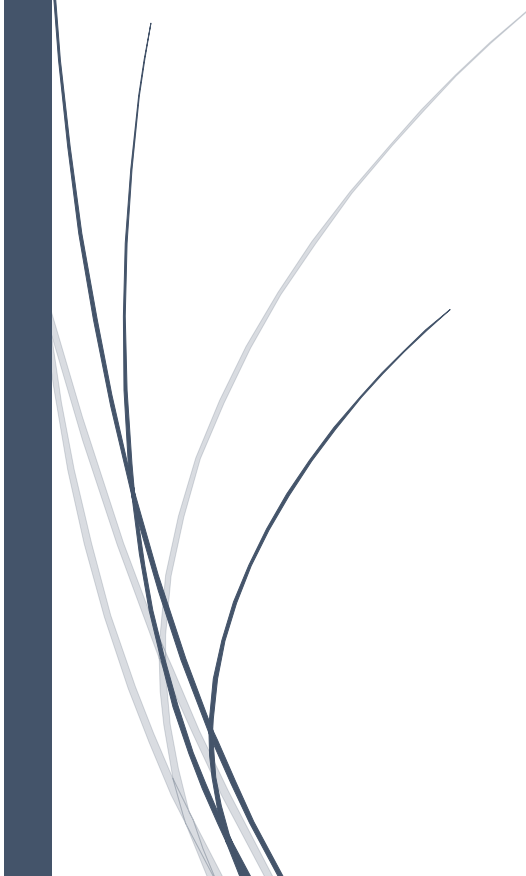


**Welcome address by Her Worship Mayor of Musina, Cllr Mihloti Muhlope during the Youth Month Celebration Workshop at New Nancefield Community Hall on Tuesday 19 June 2018**



Deputy Minister Zoliswa Kota-Fredericks

MEC Jerry Ndou

Fellow Councillors led by the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Radzilani

Invited guests

Representatives from the Department of Health, Social Development, SAPS, Changes, South African Youth Council, Recovering Addict and SANCA

All the young people who have joined us here today

And everyone present in this hall

Receive warm greetings.

It is with great honour and privilege for me to welcome you today, just two days after the National Youth Day celebrations. As government, we invest much of our resources to young people because we know that they are the future of our beautiful country. I'm happy that we have examples of local youth who are making a huge difference with regard to education, sports and entrepreneurship.

Our wish is that the youth should not only be job seekers. They should be job creators in their own right so that they can also be able to employ other youth, particularly in the new and innovative economic sectors.

Programme Director, it is no longer a secret that we have a serious problem of drug and alcohol abuse in our society. We have reports that drugs are sold openly to young people in our vicinity. Amazingly, these drug lords have also invaded our schools. Our message as government is very simple. Let us all join forces with the police to expose the perpetrators.

In conclusion, let me remind each one of you that Musina Municipality is committed to the plight of young people. A society that does not invest in its youth is a doomed community.

I have no doubt that this workshop will go a long way in capacitating our youth to become future responsible leaders of our country.

You are all welcome in Musina, the gateway city to the rest of Africa.

Thank you.