



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, Ms NANDI
NDALANE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD FOOD DAY
HELD AT MHINGA SPORTS GROUND ON 15 OCTOBER
2019**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF VHEMBE DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY; CLLR NENGUDA**

**THE LOCAL MAYOR OF COLLINS CHABANE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MALULEKE**

HIS MAJESTY HOSI SHILUNGWA MHINGA

**HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, Ms RAMATSEMEMELE
MAISELA**

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

DISTINGHISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Good Morning

Today we are commemorating the 39th anniversary of the World Food Day a significant milestone in our pursuit for hunger free society. World food day was first declared in 1979 by the United Nations and was consequently observed in 1980 by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. This year 2019 Food and Agriculture Organisation will be celebrating the fourth year of the World Food Day after the United Nations Development Programme declared a new set of sustainable goals. These are set of 17 goals targets which are taking over the millennium Development Goals which were implemented from the year 2000 and phased out in the year 2015. These sustainable development goals are now the main reference for development policies and programmes at national level.

Programme Director

I deliberately began my address with this brief but significant history in order to inform our people about the

origin and this very important day. Our country South Africa and importantly our province Limpopo will continue to place food security high on the country's development agenda with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries prioritizing food Security, job creation and contribution to the gross Domestic Production. The question therefore is why are we commemorating this Day. Why is it important for us to be here? I will therefore take this brief moment to mention a few objectives for our commemoration of this Day. In part we are here to heighten public awareness on the sustainable Development Goals and the way in which the goals will address issues of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the world and the country. To further raise awareness on the different food stuffs that constitute a balanced diet. To share with the public in general and the agriculture sector in particular on the issues that lead to migration and the importance of investing in food security and rural development. To engage stakeholders in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in the discussion on the impacts of climate change to agriculture, food supply, water supply, small holder and subsistence farmers and food security in general. These are brief objectives of the World Food Day. You will agree with me that even though

I have not detailed the whole objectives, you can see that this Day is very significant in our lives and livelihood. This year we are celebrating World Food Day under the theme: **“Our actions are our future. Healthy diets for zero hunger world.”**

Programme Director

When preparing this address, a few questions came to my mind and I thought it would be appropriate to engage you as they are quite relevant to the celebration for this day and our work as the Department of Agriculture. Majority of us gathered here have at least had a meal or breakfast before we came to this event. Do we know that in this rural province of ours there are many of our people who have no idea what breakfast is? Do we also realize that there are many of our people who struggle on daily basis to have food for themselves and their families? Do we also realize that there are children who go to bed on empty stomachs because there is just no food for them? In brief these are some questions that I want all of us here think about as we go about commemorating this day. Poverty and hunger is a sad reality in our rural communities including this very one we have visited today. Hunger and poverty robs our people of their dignity. Hunger and poverty has negative impact on societal development.

Hunger and poverty in some instances lead to instability in our communities as affected people resort to all means necessary to survive. A situation which leads to crime and theft. These realities are all as a result of deprivation of food, hunger and poverty.

Programme Director

With that being said the fundamental issue therefore is what needs to be done. What do we need to do as a Department of Agriculture and Rural Development? The reality is that the province of Limpopo looks up to us to achieve poverty free society by obtaining food security for our people. Time for sloganeering and glossy government programmes with no significant impact need to stop. We need to implement our Agricultural programmes with the aim of providing food for our province and removing hunger from our communities. It is in our hands. We need to ensure that poverty alleviation programmes such as **“Fetsa Tlala”** are meaningfully implemented in order to indeed eradicate poverty in our society. Those of us who daily have food for ourselves and families need to realize that the opposite may be the reality with some of our poverty stricken masses of our people. As a Department we must ensure that we do not only support our emerging farmers, but we inculcate the spirit of farming particularly

in our rural communities. We need to support and train our people to produce food for their communities. Those who have interest in farming need to be supported without hesitation. Those who are already farming particularly emerging need to be supported as well and mainly to ensure that they sustain farming and produce food for our people. I am fully aware that there are many challenges including and not limited to finance and material. However, we need to use the resources currently at our disposal optimally so that we can better request for additional resources.

Programme Director

As we are commemorating this World Food Day to day, together we must declare war on hunger and poverty. The people of this country and province are by nature resilient. We have successfully fought and won the war against the tyranny of apartheid and segregation through resilience and sacrifice. Today our enemy threatening the development of our communities is hunger and poverty. With the same vigour and resilience that we have let us fight this problem and win for the benefit of our poverty stricken communities. The governing African National Congress is a people centred political movement. This therefore should reflect in the priorities of the ANC led

government. In the case of our Department it will reflect when we are meaningfully eradicating poverty, when our people are empowered in Agricultural projects and again when we attain sustainable food production for our communities. Let us use this World Food Day to think and implement. Our people are looking up to us to get out of the hell of poverty. Together we can achieve a poverty free society.

Programme Director

As we conclude we are calling on all of you on this World Food Day to eat healthy. We are also encouraged to consume our indigenous foods which over many centuries have sustained our communities. I know many of us are now attracted to luxury foods being sold in our chain stores. While responsible consumption of those foods is encouraged, our call is for you prioritise indigenous foods. They have been good for us and they will continue to be good for us. It is also convenient and affordable to produce such foods. I'm calling on all of us to enjoy World Food Day and remember we have now declared war against poverty. This is a war which we must win for the benefit of our poverty stricken communities. As a Department we will work hard with you in order to obtain the noble objective of a better life for all.

I thank you