

Women's Day is celebrated annually to commemorate the historic march in 1956 by women from all sectors of society where they said enough was enough and marched to the Union Building to protest against Pass Laws and other draconian legislations of the apartheid government.

Over 20 000 women of all races and ages from every corner of South Africa marching together towards the Union Buildings in Pretoria. On 9 August 1956 these women were marching in protest against the pass laws that proposed even further restrictions on the movements of women.

The Federation of South African Women (Fedsaw) organised the March, led by four women; Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophy Williams and Lilian Ngoyi. The leaders delivered petitions to Prime Minister JG Strijdom's office within the Union Buildings. Women throughout the country had put their names to these petitions indicating their anger and frustration at having their freedom of movement restricted by the hated official passes.

To conclude the Women's March the women sang freedom songs such as Nkosi sikeleli Afrika, however, the song that became the anthem of the march was "Wathint' abafazi, Strijdom!"

wathint' abafazi,
wathint' imbokodo,
uza kufa!

[When] you strike the women,
you strike a rock,
you will be crushed [you will die]!

The march was a resounding success and we recognise the bravery of these women who risked arrest, detention and banning by declaring 9 August National Women's Day.



MPUMALANGA
PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT

PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

DATE: 09 August 2009

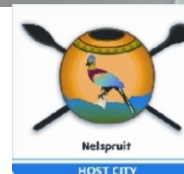
VENUE: Masoyi Stadium

Ehlanzeni District, Mbombela Local Municipality

TIME: 10h00

**"Together Empowering Women
For Development and Gender Equality"**

Provincial Women's Day Programme



Ehlanzeni District Municipality



PROGRAMME DIRECTORS:MEC: Dikeledi Mahlangu & MEC:Reginah Mhaule

Informal Programme:

08h00 – 09h30	Exhibitions
09h30 – 11h00	Cultural Performances <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bayeza Cultural Group• Tinkanyeti Cultural Group• Masoyi Cultural Group• Lutsango LaseMasoyi Cultural Group

Formal Programme:

11h00 – 11h05	Opening	National Anthem : Cefups Academy School
11h05 – 11h15	Multi- Faith Prayers	Islamic African Bahai Christianity
11h15 – 11h20	Welcoming Remarks	Executive Mayor of Mbombela Municipality: Clr LL Chiwayo
11h20 – 11h25	Remarks	Programme Director
11h25 – 11h30	Acknowledgement of Guests	Programme Director
11h30 – 11h45	Musical Item	Maqhawe Cultural Group
11h45 – 11h55	Reading of Messages of Support by Programme Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COSATU• House of Traditional leaders• Mpumalanga Progressive Women Movement of South Africa• Military Veterans Association
11h55 – 12h10	Musical Item	Africano Jazz Band
12h10 – 12h15	Remarks and Introduction of the Premier	MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation: Mr V.R Shongwe
12h15– 12h45	Keynote address	Premier of Mpumalanga Province: Mr D.D Mabuza
12h45– 13h00	Musical Item	Baracca African Soul
13h00– 13h10	Vote of Thanks and Announcements	Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni Municipality : Clr K Mkhonto

Entertainment:

13H10-16h00	Performances <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malini• Winnie Khumalo• Thabile Myeni• Dj Madumane
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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.**

**Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.**

**Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,**

**Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.**

Draft Programme