

**DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD**

**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**FOURTH SESSION**

**THIRD LEGISLATURE**

**WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2008**

**THE HOUSE MET AT 08:45 AT THE SUGAR RAY XULU STADIUM, CLERMONT, eTHEKWINI.**

**1. WELCOME BY THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: MS L F SHABALALA**

**INSERT TAKE TT1 AND TAKE TT2 (ISIZULU)**

**MR L NAIDOO (DEPUTY MAYOR, ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY):** Logie Naidoo, Deputy Mayor, Ethekekwini Municipality. Programme Director, the hon Speaker of the KZN Legislature, hon T W Mchunu. The hon MECs who are present: MEC for Health, hon Peggy Nkonyeni; the hon MEC for Safety and Security and Community Liaison, hon B H Cele. Members of our Provincial Legislature present: Mr L P H M Mtshali and others who are here, Amakhosi present, religious leaders, Pastor Dube and others who are here, distinguished members of this Women's Parliament, guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, *sanibonani*... [Interjections] Ninjani?

52 years ago the voice of South African women was heard throughout the world when 20 000 of our gallant fighters, women from every part of South Africa, from the different walks of life, from the four corners of Southern Africa, marched upon the apartheid parliament and then sent a resounding message to the then Prime Minister to say: "*Wathinta abafazi wathinta imbokodo*".

That message still resounds throughout the length and breadth of our country today. The voice of women was heard. Today we live in a free and democratic South Africa

and we salute all the gallant heroines of our struggle, those who committed their lives to realise the vision of a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Today we celebrate and in this month of August South Africans join hands in celebrating the achievement of our women in the field of politics, in the business world, in the corporate sector, women who play important roles in the non-governmental organisations, helping to build our communities, women who play an important role in the field of health, social welfare and education, women who are community builders, women who continue to contribute towards the process of rebuilding the new democratic South Africa.

Today we celebrate those occasions, we celebrate the road that we have travelled and we salute all the women of South Africa for their unstinting efforts in realising our dream.

So this Women's Parliament, arranged by the KZN Legislature, is to hear the voice of women once again, to give direction to our democracy and the road that we are travelling. This is an opportunity for the women from our community to speak and to be heard, to echo the sentiments of people at grassroots level, to talk about the concerns and challenges and obstacles that we still face today. Indeed in this fourteenth year of our democracy we have travelled down the road, but we still have a long walk to freedom, freedom in the total sense that it is not only the political freedom, but the economic emancipation of all our womenfolk.

So today we salute our women and we say, "*Malibongwe!*" On that note I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this Women's Parliament 2008. Ngiyabonga. [Applause]

END OF TAKE TT3

**INSERT TAKES TT4 — TAKE TT49**