

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR,
CLLR M MAPHETLE AT THE CLOSE OF THE SAWIC
ROAD SHOW**

August 30, 2008

Programme Director

MEC for Developmental Local Government and Housing, Mr H Yawa

All Protocol Observed

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is for me a great privilege and honour to stand before you and on behalf of Tlokwe City Council and the people we serve, to address you and express our heartfelt thanks for the success of your road show. We thank you because your road show has exposed us to so much information as it has to you. Just as you have come to know our city better we also, as the people of Potchefstroom come to know you better as well.

In August 12, 2008 we congregated in this manner to launch the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) road show. Today we are once more gathered in the same manner at the end of what I believe to have been a successful road show.

I believe that during the road show members of SAWIC have had opportunities to share and exchange views and opinions with each other as well as with the various stakeholders. They should have observed and shared best practices and experiences on capacity building and on how to make their enterprises more successful. This should strengthen and extend their endeavours to build the necessary self-esteem, exposure and most importantly leadership skills that are required to position women as role players in growing our economy.

Programme Director, it does not escape anyone's mind that the close of the road show happens at the close of the Women's Month as well. In South Africa women have lived through an entire century through experiences where they were denied access to social economic and political power and have had to endure systematic and often brutal forms of dispossession that were mostly meted out against them through the use of forced removals. Yet, despite harshly bearing these indelible scars through collective and individual efforts their spirit lived on.

Our democratic Government has committed itself to doing away with all these scars of the past that continue to mar our women to this day. Various initiatives at national, provincial and local are being engaged on to empower the women of our country so they can reclaim their rightful place as equals amongst equals.

Today MEC Yawa will be handing over two houses to two women to which houses were promised during the visit of the People's Parliament to our city in March. We will today also be shown and told of a multi million housing construction project to be undertaken wholly by women enterprises.

Programme Director, these are seemingly small but significant steps that show that the process of affirming women is full steam and unstoppable. These are bricks in the high wall women empowerment and affirmation that we are all committed to.

In the final analysis ladies and gentlemen I take this opportunity to once more extend to you warm greeting and well wishes from the City Council and the people of Potchefstroom.

I thank you all.