



**ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY
MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE'S
SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2017**

Councillor Joyce Johnson at KwaMashu L Community Hall, "Listen to the Girl Child Campaign Dialogue" – Thobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation

**Programme Director,
The Patron and First lady, Mrs Thobeka Zuma
Members of the Foundation,
Sponsors,
Distinguished guests,
Our Girls,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocol observed,**

Siyanibingelela egameni lomkhandlu oholwa uANC, umkhandlu weTheku. We would like to thank you for inviting us to this occasion. The Mayor has welcomed this initiative targeting young girls. Because she was once a young girl herself and experienced some difficulty, she would have loved to share her experiences with a hope to educate you to be better person, but unfortunately she couldn't make it due to some organisational commitments.

Unfortunately, this event takes place after one sad and terrible story that has shocked the nation. The story of Karabo, who was found dead after being killed and burnt by her boyfriend. We were all shocked, and in fact

disgusted by it, and some even took it to Twitter with the Hash Tag – Man Are Trash (#ManAreTrash). This was informed by emotions and strong feeling of how we get hurt by men and die in silence. This was to encourage young girls to raise their views and not to be afraid to express their opinions.

Programme Director,

I believe that this occasion will be able to create a platform that will encourage our young girls to speak out. Girls must make their opinions known, they must be like the Youth of 1976 that said "Nothing about us without Us." The youth that said if you take a policy about our future, know that we want to have an opinion.

Speaking out is not only about expressing your unhappiness but your happiness too. You have a right to be happy and celebrate it. You have a right to celebrate your educational success and your childrens achievement. Especially if you work hard to earn and achieve it. I would like to encourage you to study and brag about your education. You must take the available educational opportunities to further your education. Study and make education fashionable.

President Nelson Mandela said that "Education is the only weapon that can be used to change the future of a child." If we want to change our lives as women and girls we must be educated. I mean, get a qualification, get a skill and be knowledgeable.

Be knowledgeable about things like HIV and Aids. Understand that we are now distributing free condoms and know how to use a condom. Condoms are a responsibility for both men and women in a relationship, buy them or get them from Clinics. Protect yourself and don't bow to sexual pressure, if you are under pressure use a condom.

Programme Director,

We would like to thank this foundation for raising pertinent issues that are affecting our youth especially girls. We hope that we will find solutions to our own problems. I would like to encourage you to speak and advise us as

elders. We want to make policies that are relevant. The ANC is approaching a policy conference and we want to go there armed with information from you. We want to be armed with information that comes directly from young people.

Women must not be afraid to take leadership positions in society. You must start leading at this age. This generation and society must get used to women leading. In fact women are ready to occupy high offices in the land as being CEOs, Mayors, Premiers, Chancellors and even Presidency. South Africa must be ready to be led by a woman President, she might come from you or anywhere else in the country.

Ladies – thank you for inviting us, it has been a pleasure.