



**MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY
FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE DELIVERED BY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR
WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: MS SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA, MP
FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT CYRIL MATOMELA
RAMAPHOSA AT THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
POFFADER, NORTHERN CAPE
9TH AUGUST 2024
10H00 – 13H00**

- **Programme Directors: Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture: Mr G McKenzie, MP and MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture in the Northern Cape: Ms N Vilakazi**
 - **Veteran of the women's movement,**
 - **Ministers and Deputy Ministers,**
 - **Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul,**
 - **Executive Mayor of Khai-Ma Local Municipality: Cllr Lindie Bruintjies Groenewald**
 - **Members of Parliament,**
 - **Representatives of political parties,**
 - **Religious, traditional and community leaders,**
 - **Members of the Media**
 - **Distinguished Guests**
 - **Ladies and gentlemen;**
- Dumelang, Sanibonani, Goeie more, Good Morning!**

1. INTRODUCTION / INLEIDING

1. INTRODUCTION AND OUR MANDATE AND PRIORITIES

My name is Sindisiwe Chikunga, the Minister in the Presidency, responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Our department is responsible for three most important constituencies who make up two thirds of the entire population of South Africa, that is Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. We are charged with a historic mandate:

To provide strategic leadership on social transformation, economic transformation and implementation of the empowerment and participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. We do this through mainstreaming, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation.

Programme Director, Ladies and gentlemen;

Yesterday, **I attended uManyano** together with women of Poffader. What moved me is to the discovery love the women of Poffader have for their country. Mr President the **women have commitment themselves to praying for our beloved South Africa, the President and the entire leadership in different areas of responsibilities.**

I observed the **exceptional interrelations, respect and hard work** amongst the public servants, civil organizations representatives as well as community members. The citizens of Poffader in KHAJ-MA Local Municipality have requested government to come back and empower

the women and youth. They indicated that they want to establish Small Businesses in order to alleviate poverty and create jobs.

In the evening at Upington, I met more than one hundred Private Sector and Women in Business. Although coming from different sectors and industries, common challenges faced by women here in the Northern Cape include **funding, incubation and training.** Chief amongst their request is for officials serving in government departments to listen and treat women in business professionally.

Programme Directors, Ladies and gentlemen;

I must share my deep appreciation for the work done thus far and the continuous commitment expressed by the Women Economic Assembly (WECONA) in ensuring that the gains made in advancing women's entrepreneurship are protected, advanced by all social partners, and institutionalized.

WECONA, has requested the department to closely monitor the implementation of the **Public Procurement Bill**, recently signed into law to regulate public procurement, including preferential procurement, by all organs of state.

To this end, WECONA will also play its part by conducting inter-provincial roadshows to ensure awareness and institutionalization of the provisions of this progressive Act. Women of South Africa, the Women Economic Assembly (WECONA) has committed to working with Women and for women.

During the Dialogue with the Private Sector and Women in Business; I was equally elated, when I heard Premier committing to the implementation of a gender-biased budgeting and planning across all government departments in the Northern Cape Province. I wish to reiterate my appreciation to the Premier, Honourable Zamani Saul for his commitment towards addressing the plight of women. The Premier appointed an MEC responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. The Premier affords women empowerment the seriousness it deserves, and it is my humbly plea that all Provincial Premiers in the Republic adopt this exemplary progressive approach. **Thank you Premier, for your unapologetic commitment to women empowerment agenda.**

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ladies and gentlemen;

In these three decades of democracy, Today, pause to **“Celebrate 30 Years of Democracy Towards Women’s Development”**. We recognize the strides we've made, the victories we've attained and the challenges we've overcome and those that persist in our collective cause for self-determination and self-actualization. On this Women’s Day, 70 years after the Women’s Charter, we pause to honour the timeless and selfless contributions made by women of our country and continent.

However, we know too well that even after freedom was attained, women across Africa have had to continue fighting for their right to equal opportunities and self-determination. Patriarchy, racism, and related gender-based forms of economic exclusion continue to intersect and perpetuate systems that keep women marginalized in political, economic, and social spheres of life. **Therefore, National Women's Day and the entire Women's Month provide an opportunity for us to reflect, introspect, and identify where our approaches to equality and justice have fallen short.**

INTRODUCING THE PRESIDENT

With those few words, allow me to introduce someone who needs no introduction to South Africans, **Ladies and gentlemen**, it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to present to you, **a Statesman, a Trade Unionist, a Political Stalwart, a Business Connoisseur, a legal professional, a Philanthropist, The President of the African National Congress and the President the Government of National Unity; the President of our beloved South Africa, Mr Cyril Matomela Ramaphosa.**

Your Excellency, may I humbly request the President to provide the Keynote address.

I Thank you.