



Cllr Maphefo Mogale Letsie

Freedom Day Message by:

Merafong City Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Maphefo Mogale Letsie

Freedom Day honours the anniversary of South Africa's first non-racial election of 1994 and pays homage to the country's liberation from Apartheid rule, where the minority exercised political power over the majority of the country.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to request the community to join in on commemorating the 2020 National Freedom Day during the lockdown across Merafong in reflecting on the achievements we have attained as Merafong community. This is the first of its kind year where we commemorate "Freedom Day in a different way due to lockdown".

I therefore urge the public residing within the borders of the municipality to heed the call by State President Cyril Ramaphosa to respect the lockdown period.

This day marks as a remembrance of how the nation stood together as one to fight against hatred and oppression until we were solidified by the leadership of Nelson Mandela in 1994. Therefore, this day also serves as a reminder to us that the guarantee of our freedom requires us to remain forever cautious against corruption and the erosion of the values of the Freedom Struggle and to build an active citizenry that will work towards wiping out the legacy of unfair treatment, inequality and the promotion of the rights personified in our constitution.

Fellow communities, it is important to note that "freedom" should mean liberation from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. We are still a long way away from solving many of the legacies of Apartheid and we now face new challenges of the growing inequality among South Africans and political and economic instability in the region caused by a new elite who are interested in pursuing their own interests.

On this day, celebrate knowing that your discipline and single-minded purposefulness have become a legend throughout the world. On behalf of the council, I urge all of you to responsibly celebrate the hard work we contributed into our democracy.

It must be brought to the attention of the community that even the municipality is adhering to the lockdown regulations; only essential services in the form of Electricity, Water, Waste Management, Public Safety, Health and Social Development, Essential Admin Support and the Call and Contact Centre remain open.

Remember not to take chances and stay at home.

Happy Freedom Day!