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Women's day celebrated gospel style in Intabazwe, Harrismith

Orhythms reverberated through the rafters of Imbizo Community Hall in Intabazwe in Harrismith in the Eastern Free State as women from different parts of this town gathered together to celebrate women's day yesterday. Women celebrated in gospel songs, dance and gyrating as the musicians serenaded the event with sweet sounds and voices. Leading the programme was the versatile Ouma Nzimande.

ounds of joy and musical Titled Word Power Ladies Talk the gathering was aimed at bringing women together to celebrate womanhood as designed and created by the Almighty God and to give women a sense of belonging. It was also an opportunity for women to thank God for who they are and to value themselves as each one of them has born unique and special. Spearheaded by Ntsoaki Mokoena, a Lecturer from the local college and a Pastor's wife, the event attracted

women of different ages around Harrismith, amongst whom were her colleagues and college learners.

"We wanted to celebrate with women from all walks of life. To encourage one another and to share the Word of God together irrespective of church denomination. Women, young and old, are faced with various challenges of life. Some are lonely and some are left all by themselves to raise children. They get exhausted and thus need another shoulder to carry them. "The event was also aimed at providing a shoulder for women to lean on," said Mokoena.

Mokoena was the main speaker of the event. She encouraged women to pursue their goals in life and never to give up. She read the Bible from Genesis 17: 15 - 17 as well as Genesis 21: 1 - 3, which tells of how Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were blessed with a child in their old age. "God's plans are not the same as our plans. When God promises something, He will definitely do it. He is God of His own time. At the right time, God will work things out for you. One day, God will also hear your prayers and your situation will

change for the better," she told the gathering.

Speaking at the event was also Pastor Sibongile Radebe, who is also a retired police officer. She emphasised the strength rooted in each woman. "A mother is able to manoeuvre and fend for herself and for her family. When there is no food on the table. She will make means," she said.

Radebe based her words encouragement on Isaiah 40: 28 and emboldened women to wholly depend on God. She encouraged women to remain strong and never to stop doing what is good. She also encouraged the married women to love their husbands as well as their children, and to also look after them. An elated attendee, Deliwe Agnes Mofokeng, described the event as an adoring tribute to Women's day and said it was filled with heartfelt messages of empowerment and gratitude to women. "The service highlighted their strength, resilience and phenomenal contributions to our community, leaving everyone inspired and uplifted," she said.

By Puisano News Reporter

Phase 1 of Vereeniging taxi rank finally open to commuters

auteng MEC for Transport and JLogistics, Kedibone Diale-Tlabela, has officially handed over the first phase of the Vereeniging Intermodal Taxi Facility (Taxido) to the locals and those in surrounding areas in the Sedibeng District Municipality in Gauteng. In April this year, Deputy President Paul Mashatile visited the Sedibeng District Municipality where he made his first stop at the Taxido, which was under construction after breaking ground almost a decade ago.

The Deputy President described the intermodal system as the best way in ensuring efficient public transport. long-awaited intermodal system will incorporate retail space, long-distance buses and the train station. Phase 1 of the project, according to the provincial department, which commenced in December 2022 was undertaken for R30 million. This department views this upgrade as a step towards better transportation, and economic growth for communities. The work completed consisted of refurbishing the existing taxi rank to include new hawker stalls, loading shelters and ablution facilities. The project is in partnership with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), Sedibeng District Municipality and Emfuleni Local Municipality.

The Department had appointed the Gautrain Management Agency (GMA) as the implementing agent for the delivery of the intermodal facility. Speaking at the handing over on Friday, Diale-Tlabela said the taxi rank is critical in turning Vereeniging into an Economic Development Hub and also serves as a symbol of the delivery of the commitment by government to fast-track the delivery of road infrastructure in the province. "The department has committed itself to deliver transport infrastructure projects to restore and grow the economy and provide access to economic and much-needed job opportunities to the people of the

province," said the MEC. Diale-Tlabela urged the community and the taxi industry to take care of the facility and avoid vandalising the property. "I would also like to urge everyone to take good care of this property and avoid vandalism, especially when protesting. This facility is here to service them," she remarked. She further stated that the intermodal facility will go a long way in improving the lives of township people by supporting local businesses and the informal trading industry in Vereeniging. The facility is planned to be expanded into a modernised intermodal facility which will promote government's priorities of improving the standard of living in townships and improving economic growth and recovery. "It will further facilitate the provision of a safe, accessible, convenient public transport system." – SAnews.gov.za





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