

## Craighall Park 100th Anniversary

22 November 2011

Speakers notes by the Acting Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Clr Ruby Mathang, on the occasion of the Craighall Park 100th Anniversary, Craighall Park – Johannesburg

Programme Director

Distinguished Guests

Community of Craighall

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the residents and citizens of Johannesburg as well as the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, we wish Craighall Park and the Craighall Park community hearty congratulations on reaching the major milestone of 100 years. It is indeed a notable achievement that should be proudly celebrated by every member of the community as well as everyone present here tonight and indeed by everyone in Johannesburg.

Craighall Park is one of the oldest suburbs of the city. It was established by a Scottish man, William Rattray, the owner of a large farm, Klipfontein, which at the time was an hour's journey by horse-carriage to the north of the bustling mining town of Johannesburg. He divided the farm into a residential development, which he named Craighall after his birthplace in Blairgowrie, Scotland, and a recreational development of lakes and parkland, much of which still exists as the open land of Delta Park.

This year, we are also celebrating Johannesburg's existence. Johannesburg marks its 125th anniversary. Johannesburg was founded in 1886 as a result of the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand. So it is for a good reason that Johannesburg is known to many as "Egoli" (Zulu) or "Gauteng" (Sotho), both names meaning "the Place of Gold".

Johannesburg grew from tent town to wood and iron shanties to bricks and mortar buildings at the pace of an historical wink of an eye. Within less than two decades since its formal proclamation the broad outlines of the City, as we know it today was already well established.

To us the year 1886 remains an important milestone and a reason to celebrate the history of a small little mining town that grew into Africa's premier City in the very short space of only 125 years.

And as we do so, we also celebrate the history of Craighall Park and its 100 years of existence.

Whatever the odds, in the City of Johannesburg we remain committed to the ideals of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and a prosperous society. Let's enjoy Craighall Park's 100th anniversary. This is an important milestone worthy of being celebrated by all of us.

Once again, on behalf of the people of Johannesburg, we ask the Community of Craighall to accept our congratulations on reaching a century!

Thank you