

**MESSAGE BY CLLR. CHRIS VONDO: MEMBER OF THE MAYORAL COMMUNITY FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, 20 MARCH
2013**

Tomorrow is Human Rights Day, a day on which all South Africans re-dedicate themselves to the values of human dignity, equality and freedom. On the eve of this occasion it is also fitting that we should renew our determination to promote and protect these values because they are the cornerstone of our hard - fought democracy.

Madame Speaker

It is significant that we should at this time; remember all those who gave up their lives in the cause of our country's freedom. And for those of us who are tasked with the responsibility of serving our people, a day like this should remind us of the great responsibilities we owe to the people we serve.

We need to consider how far we have been able to carry out the objectives and the strides we have made in restoring the dignity of our people. Since the advent of democracy almost 19-years ago, a lot has been achieved with regards to restoring the dignity of our people, such as the provision of health care, housing and the right to education, just to mention a few.

Madame Speaker

Of course a lot is still has to be done and the pace of progress must accelerate. As you reflect, you will realise that it was with deep sense of tribute and honour for the spirit, bravery and sacrifice of those who were either maimed or lost their lives so that this day, Human Rights Day is declared a public holiday.

Therefore, observing an occasion like Human Rights Day calls on all of us to devote all our energies towards the poor and vulnerable in our society. As local government, our work impacts directly on the lives of the people we serve.

Madame Speaker

However, **GDSJoburg2040**, which makes a special reference to a welcoming city that provides a good quality of life and maximises the human potential of all who live and work in it, with time and devotion, this strategy would lead us towards the realisation of our plans and objectives.

As I conclude, Madame Speaker, let this occasion help us rededicate ourselves to the ideals and principles enshrined in our constitution.

I wish you all a happy and pleasant Human Rights Day.