

## **MMM: SALUTE OUR HEROINES**

21 August 2009

On Friday 21st August, the female employees of Mangaung Local Municipality gathered together at the City Hall to celebrate Women's Month. The celebrations were themed 'Together empowering women for development and gender equality'

The gathering saw Mothers, Wives, Sisters and Daughters reported for duty in a very peculiar but glamorous and stylish manner. The inspiration for the celebration dates back to 1913 and the event commemorated the Free State women that were jailed for organizing the first resistance march against the apartheid laws and its repression.

The celebratory occasion on the 21st August, saluted the women working at MLM for their sterling contributions to service delivery and them often being the driving force behind transformation in the organization.

The programme of the day included speakers from CANSA- Cancer Association of South Africa-, the Department of Justice, and the Executive Mayor of Mangaung Local Municipality, Cllr. Playfair Morule. The speeches delivered were inspirational and empowering to all women – no matter the race or cultural background.

The Executive Mayor thanked all the gathered employees for the pivotal role they play in the MLM, and commended them as a pillar of strength in the municipality.

Mr. Makau, the speaker from the Department of Justice informed the women about domestic violence and their rights in nuptials. He was very firm when he conveyed the powerful message that women are still scared and ashamed to report the abuse happening in their households. "Domestic violence is evil, no one should be abused emotionally, physically, verbally or sexually" he concluded.

August saw the celebration of women's month and we pay homage to the relentless efforts by women who continue to emancipate themselves from the oppressive policies and practices. Women in our country have come a long way but the journey has not come to an end as yet. Let us continue to support them.