

Mayoral Speech – 17 May 2017

Honoured and distinguished guest, family, friends, colleagues and fellow councillors, I would like to welcome and thank you for showing your interest and support by being here this evening. I am thrilled and privileged to stand here as the elected Mayor of this great, stimulating and diverse Borough of ours, Merton.

I would not have been here tonight without the unwavering support of my family, fellow councillors, friends and the community which I serve; my debt to you all is incalculable. I am truly grateful to my leader and fellow councillors for their trust in me.

I take this responsibility and the confidence bestowed upon me seriously. I am consigned to serving the people of the Borough of Merton to the best of my ability with earnestness, solitude and allegiance to our community. I will constantly reflect on Life's two rules #1. Never quite #2.

Always remember rule. I also give thanks to my colleagues for the challenge support, and trust over the years, for electing the first Black Female Guyanese as Mayor of the Borough of Merton. This borough stands proud of its divergent and vibrant community. Thank you so much! In this milestone, I arrived in the UK in 2001 and followed on with my career as an educator.

I obtained my teaching qualification at London Southbank University then went on to impart my knowledge at TBG Learning College in Brixton, St Mark's Academy, and currently enabling offenders an opportunity to gain a qualification thus enabling them to minimise re-offending at HMP High Down.

During my pre – Britain years, I attended, Cumberland Nursery, Cumberland Primary School, BHS, Cyril Peter College of Education, and the University of Guyana where the schools curriculum covered similar subjects as in British curriculum. My duties included managing schools, representing parents, children answer stand in a daily basis.

I was always keen on the Mayors and their glitz, glamour and grandeur that come with the history and tradition of Britain. Little did I know, or even dreamt that I would become the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton and adorn myself with the red robe to add pulchritude to my glamour and style.

Today I say, dreams do come true, to become Mayor of this magnificent borough is not just an honour; it is a gargantuan responsibility and elephantine opportunity to make a difference in Merton. I am committed to work with the entire community,

voluntary and charitable groups to add sparked to the lives of the residents in Merton and here I will conclude with this thought from an unknown author; Go where you are celebrate- not tolerated, if they can't see the real value of you, it's time for a new start.

I am not going anywhere because I am celebrated here in Mitcham, so let's celebrate together.

Thank you.