

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF THE MEC FOR NORTHERN CAPE SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT; HONOURABLE MXOLISI SOKATSHA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE LONG SERVICE AWARDS IN KIMBERLEY-
HORSESHOE MOTEL ON 27 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 18H00**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

COUNCILLOR:

C NGOMA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:

MS E BOTES

VERY IMPORTANTLY: RECEIPIENTS OF THE LONG SERVICE

AWARDS

EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR MANAGERS OF THE DEPARTMENT S

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

ALL MEDIA HOUSES PRESENT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Please accept my humble greetings this evening

With your indulgence Program Director

It gives me great joy to be addressing an audience of your caliber , one is understandably overwhelm by the type of employee you represent.

In political terms we refer to your likes as the most advanced detachment of the organization. That's simply because you have been able to carry this institution over the years, when it was not fashionable to work for this Department, through all the frustrations, highs and lows which were there.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I want to be upper most in saying this is a joyful day, a day of celebration for all of you being honored here. Occasions like these we do not observe because someone felt that there is a need to get rid of money or due to an under spending crisis that the department find itself in. This is one of those rare days in which we are all taking a back sit from all activities that we are usually assigned to, and specifically reflect on those people who through sheer dedication, passion, loyalty and hard work have carried this institution. These are the soldiers that we have always known to count on,

they know all there is to know about this department, and it is up to us to treasure them and tap into their insight.

I feel obliged to speak about the special kind of breed of employee this 2015 Detachment represents;

I believe it will not be incorrectly interpreted if I have to quote from a hymn:

IF WHEN YOU GIVE THE BEST OF YOUR SERVICE;

TELLING THE WORLD THAT THE SAVIOUR HAS COME;

BE NOT DISMAYED IF MAN DOES NOT BELIEVE YOU;

HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY WELL DONE.

Through the cause of your service it is quite obvious that not all was rosy, not every day presented sunshine, there were rocky paths, the thorns were brutal and uncompromising, but through it all one thing that remained and is still there; **Your will power.**

You have persevered against all odds and you are still standing strong, all of you are disciplined public servants, you draw your inspiration from your desire to honestly and diligently serve our people. This kind of passion can only be explained in one way; that is the understanding of the basic principles of **BATHO PELE.**

In the twenty years of our democracy, our public service sector has continued to play an increasingly important role in the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Going forward, the Public Service has a key role to play as we seek to transform the way we govern; the way we formulate policies and the way we deliver public services. We need to do this in a way which will connect with the citizens.

Indeed, as our province is diverse, and what our citizens want and expect become more wide-ranging, the challenges faced by our public officers will also grow in terms of magnitude and complexity, meaning that whilst we recognise and applaud the work of the Department, more work needs to be done towards an integrated public service as envisioned by the National Development Plan.

It is neither effective nor sustainable for the Public Service to try to solve all these problems on our own. We need to tap on the collective wisdom and knowledge of the people and stakeholders to help tackle the challenges. We need to create an environment where public officers can work hand-in-glove with the people they serve to address the issues and create greater

public value. Ultimately this involvement will help create a South Africa where citizens can freely engaged and have shared ownership of the challenges and look for solutions together. This will provide the foundation for a more resilient and cohesive society.

Indeed, the Long Service Award is an ongoing exercise of sharing with the citizens of the Northern Cape Province and the Department's employees, that excellence in service delivery is central to everything that government expects from its employees. This event is therefore to bring into the open the sometimes lonely and unrecognized efforts of those who have gone beyond the call of duty and are doing their work diligently, efficiently and effectively, without prodding.

Program Director;

We draw strength from the knowledge that within the department we have a powerful workforce, both young and old, men and women, black and white, who will together with this tried and tested stalwarts in front of us, who can work in an unbreakable form of unity to lead this department to the deeply cherished goals of social emancipation and total eradication of poverty.

Perhaps I should in further paying honor on you my fellow colleagues,
quote from reflections made on the life of one of the most dedicated
revolutionaries of our struggle, **Oom Ray (Raymond Mhlaba) let his Soul
Rest in Peace:**

**“His was indeed a life well-lived, and a struggle well-fought, and he
has left us many lessons, which confirms that the masses are the
makers of history. He came from the downtrodden levels of our
country to make a lasting contribution to our liberation struggle.**

**His life confirms that ours was not an elitist struggle but a struggle
that was led and directed by ordinary masses of our country, whom
we must continue to serve with distinction, as their serving
government.**

**He died knowing that we are on course to and committed in meeting
the minimum demands of our people as stated in the Freedom
Charter. He left us a legacy of struggle, dedication and commitment,
and lessons in patriotism, nation building, which we must nurture and
protect.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen let us pay tribute to a stalwart of our struggle
and a revolutionary whose lifetime of commitment to the ideals of**

freedom, liberty and democracy. It remains incomprehensible to many, how after being incarcerated for so many decades Oom Ray and his comrades emerged from prison with no bitterness, only seeking to make South Africa prosperous home for all its inhabitants and future generations to come”.

It is indeed true after all these years that passion for work and dedication to the course is still evident in every one's eyes here today.

We must at all times promote Ubuntu and a culture of service delivery excellence within the department and public service at large. We must uphold the highest standard of service delivery by putting in place a value system that delivers service with loyalty, honesty, integrity, fairness, care and professionalism

A quality service culture is essential in sustaining and driving the public service which has become increasingly service-oriented.

In conclusion ***Program Director***, the valuable contribution that you have made over the years in entrenching a quality customer service culture in this department is highly regarded in many quarters.

For we know that the long service that you have put into this Department was characterized by hard work, dedication, honesty, integrity and fairness to mentioned but just a few.

I want to thank and appreciate you from the bottom of my heart for making this department what it is today.

Ek kan julle vanaand vertel dat ek baie bekommerd is oor die feit dat my noemnaam “papa action” besig is om sy mening te verloor, ek is soos a ou slang wat se gif besig is om klaar te word- en dit alles is aan julle te danke omdat julle so professioneel, hardwerkend en gekoördineerd is.

I call on you to keep our flag high!!!!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YEARS;

THE PASSION;

THE LOVE

THE DEDICATION

THE COMMITMENT TO THE COURSE

You are the embodiment of selflessness, you epitomize the true revolutionary, and I am even tempted to say I can trust you with my life. Please part this on to the next generation of employees in the department.

THANK YOU

KEA LEBOGA

BAIE DANKIE