

**SPEECH BY MEC MAPULA MOKABA-PHUKWANA TO THE STAFF OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON 03 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE
DEPARTMENTAL BOARD ROOM**

**Thlogo ya lefapha, Mohumagadi Ramokgopa, le ba shumi ka wena mo lefaphang
la tsa Thlabololo Leago, re a le Tamisa, Re re Gooie More and Good Morning.**

As political office bearers we are voted into power by the electorates to represent their expectations. To that extent, the reshuffling of provincial cabinet and our deployment to any office is the prerogative of the Premier. Such redeployment **may** be undertaken in consultation with members of the legislature, executive and the political parties.

Reshuffling is undertaken to share knowledge, at times for innovation and development or as a learning curve for multi-skilling of members. However, the underlying rationale is to improve service delivery.

Programme Director,

Political office bearers alone cannot improve the economic, physical and moral status of the country. We need the knowledge, expertise, commitment and passion of the appointed government employees and stakeholders. To harmonise and synchronise the relationship between the elected political office bearers and appointed state employees, we need a healthy politico-admin interface.

That healthy productive relationship could only take place when we have common vision and desire to transform our people's lives for the better. Our driving inspiration must be drawn from our African Ubuntu/Botho approach as taught by our elders and handed from one generation to the other. Our administrative principles of Batho – Pele must take centre stage in interacting with our suppliers, partners and communities.

Kamano e re bolelang ka yona le gono e nyalana le meketeko e re e fileng shedi mogwageng was 2017 se gologolo mokgweding ya Diphlane when we celebrated the legacy of one of our own Cde President Oliver Kasane Reginald Tambo. What we have learned throughout every Oliver Tambo lectures was his selflessness commitment to serve his people and the ANC. Indeed, Oliver Tambo's conduct exemplifies what Suzy Kassem wrote about in her book, *Rise Up and Salute the Sun*, that:

"A great leader must serve the best interests of the people first, not those of [cronies and family] and multinational corporations. Human life should never be sacrificed for monetary profit. There are no exceptions."

Our relationship as political office bearers and you the appointed government employees should therefore be the fulfilment of our people's aspirations for a better life. What our people want is articulated in the Freedom Charter, the Constitution and various progressive policies and is clear, nothing else.

This is the time that we shine through partnerships with our Academic Institutions, Academics, Professionals, Non-governmental organizations and most of all our communities. We need everyone to go beyond the horizon and deliver to the promises. We are after all, a winning nation. We need that unity to deal with the triple challenges facing our country. We need the same determination we unleashed when we dismantled Apartheid.

Program Director,

The working contract we are setting up today will be a fallacy if we do not address the scourge of corruption infecting our state machinery. As a politician and an advocate of clean government I am confident and call upon you to commit yourselves to taking responsibility for your own individual actions. Take a lead in the quest to stop the scourge of corruption in our society so that our children could enjoy the fruits of our struggle for equality, democracy and prosperity.

Corruption is like cancer which takes place in many forms. It undermines government's fight against poverty by putting money that is meant for development into the pockets of corrupt officials, politicians and service providers.

Corruption increases the cost of public services and slows down service delivery in our communities. It undermines our constitution and Batho- Pele Principles, it scares off foreign investment and stifle economic development.

I strongly believe that corruption is a crime, as such the **Corrupter**, the **Corruptee** and the **Corrupted** must be equally be charged and punished. We must reach out across communities to strengthen our resolve to live with honesty.

Program Director,

This meeting comes at a time when our citizens are vigilantly appraising the competency of the ruling party. People asks themselves *whether does the ANC have what it takes to continue with the social and economic transformation of our country? Whether does the ruling party have committed and capable employees in the government service to implement policies as intended?*

Mohumagadi Ramokgopa, le ba shumi ka wena mo lefaphang la tsa Thlabololo Leago.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and staff for organising this once all important meeting. I therefore feel comfortable and encouraged to introduce myself and my staff to you. *Ke tla gopela ba eme mola ke bitsa maina a bone le kone go ba tseba.* Our Chief of Staff, Morena Shandukani Mulovhedzi, the Parliamentary Officer Morena Julius Ramashiya, Spokesperson and Media Liaison Morena Joel Madidimalo Seabi, my Personal Assistance Mohumagatsana Tebogo Mokgobu, my Record Keeper, Mohumagatsana Cindy Malepe and last but not least our Driver and Messenger, Morena Piet Mohlophi le ba bangwe.

In closing, we are a team hence forth and we need to be innovative in order to strengthen our operations and ensure that we achieve our targets and perform beyond expectations. Once more, we feel honoured to be given this opportunity to serve our people through the Department of Social Development. I am certain that this introductory ice-breaking meeting will level the playing fields towards a healthier politico-admin relationship.

Lastly, I am an open door policy follower. I love and respect all equally regardless of race, tribe or position in the organizational hierarchy. Everyone in this department is equal safe to organisational line of command. As such anyone is free to see me on any work related matter and the reporting of corruption from whatever it come from..

Every one of us must be a whistle blower to free this beautiful country from the corruption bug attacking our social economic fibre. What I cannot tolerate is time wasters, gossipers and destructive elements who are for ever fighting colleagues. Let me leave you with Kasane Oliver Reginald Tambo words that:

"We have a vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity. We seek to create a united Democratic and non-racial society."

Together we move South Africa Forward!

I thank you!