

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE HON. MME MAPULA MOKABA-PHUKWANA AT THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION DAY, IN TSERENG SPORT GROUND, LIM 476 LOCAL MUNICIPALITY; ON THE 20TH NOVEMBER 2017.

**Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality,
The Local Mayor of LIM 476 Local Municipality,
The Speaker of LIM 476 Local Municipality,
The Chief Whip,
Kgoshi Mashabela, Maaparankwe, Magoshi a rena,
Head of Department, and the DSD Staff,
Setshaba ka kakaretso;**

Kgotsong

In his famous speech at the make Poverty History rally in London's Trafalgar Square, our first democratically elected president Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela made very key calls to the world to end poverty when he said:

“Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times – times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation – that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils.

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is

the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.”

Program Director, Setshaba sa gesso

We meet here in the dusty grounds of Tswereng, in the home district of our warrior King Sekhukhune, while we remain in the bitter fight against the same poverty. Indeed we are not yet free, it's not yet uhuru!

Batho ba gešo, we are here as part of *'Answering the call of October '17 to end poverty – and develop a solid path towards peaceful and inclusive society'*. The United Nations set the agenda, twenty five years ago in 1992, when declaring the international day for the eradication of poverty.

As South Africa, we aim to alleviate and eradicate elements of poverty within communities and households through sustainable livelihood approach in line with agenda 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs), specifically;

- Goal one (1) - End Poverty in all its forms everywhere and,
- Goals two (2) - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable Agriculture.

The Department as part of the provincial drive to deliver services and emancipate the masses of our people from abject poverty and starvation, implements Sustainable Livelihoods and poverty alleviation programmes which serve as immediate and long term intervention mechanisms. Through such programmes we address food insecurity,

low levels of income, skills and other challenges within poor communities and vulnerable households.

Program Director, Setshaba sa gešo

Following the introduction of National Food and Nutrition Security policy we have established a Provincial Food Distributing Centre (PFDC), stationed at Mmakotse in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality of the Capricorn District, and Community Food Distributing Centres around the province, which benefit more people in the form of cooked nutritious meals, trained cooks with access to sustainable income and people benefiting from funded cooperatives that are also linked to the Provincial Food Distributing Centre PFDC and the Community Food Distributing Centres (CNDCs) for the supply of fresh vegetables.

These Provincial food Distribution centre and seventeen (17) Community Nutrition Development Centres benefited about 3400 people in the form cooked nutrition meals served, 102 cooks with access to sustainable income and 200 members of funded cooperatives in 2015/16 financial year.

Program Director, Setshaba sa gešo

Here in Tswereng, when we profile you we have gathered that of the one hundred and ninety three (193) households very few are doing well above the poverty line and require our intervention. Nonetheless, those that need immediate intervention have been identified to be about forty

eight (48) and thus we will be handing them some food hampers. We do realize and appreciate the reality that more challenges persist and we will be working together, comprehensively with other departments and state institutions such as SASSA to intervene and ensure improved and sustainable livelihoods.

We will continuously engage various stakeholders like the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the Department of Agriculture, the municipalities, South African Police Services and others, not forgetting the private sector, in order to have an all-inclusive approach to all the challenges.

Program Director, Setshaba sa gešo

At this point I would like to encourage you to, whilst expecting assistance from government, please take more initiative to empower yourselves and complement the work of government.

Baswana bare: “Kgomo go tsošwa yeo e itsošang”. The intervention that will be often brought by government must find you already on your feet, fighting poverty and becoming a champion here in the village.

To the youth, you must decist from engaging in wrong thing, such as consuming drugs and alcohol, having unprotected sex and crime. You must refuse to fall victim to such social ills and end up wasting your life. You are the future, and you can become greater than you think.

Last week I was speaking to the youth of Alldays in the Blouberg Local Municipality on a program we have launched as the department called: “YOLO – You Only Live Once”, and I hope it will reach you as well if it

has not yet done so. Through this program we aim to grow HIV-free generations of youth and ultimately the rest of society. Rid yourselves off the wrong things that waste your time and defocus you, become the best that you can be.

In those word, program director le setshaba sa gesso ka moka kere 'working together we can do me', we can be a greater nation.

Kea leboga!