

VOTE OF THANKS DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE NONO MALOYI DURING THE OPENING OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE 17 FEBRUARY 2012

“CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SELFLESS STRUGGLE”

Mme Thandi Modise, Hon. Premier of our esteemed Province of the North West, allow us to express our sincere gratitude to you, for having delivered a well thought and carefully crafted State of the Province Address. The speech has a vision, it has timelines and it is practical. You can count on us as reliable partners in ensuring the objectives of this speech and delivery of services to our people.

When you were given a mission by the ANC to come and provide leadership to the Province of the North West, you never asked questions or complained. Typical of you, you undertook the task with loyalty and diligence. We know you to be like this because of your reputable character of selflessness and iron discipline.

Commentators and our own detractors are all in consonance that service delivery has improved in the North West Province. The bar of governance has improved immensely. Thanks to the central command that sent you on a mission to this Province of North West, which is not only your birthplace, but a home to Tshekisho Solomon Plaatjie and Gertrude Mphekwa; a homestead to the African Communists such as Moses Mauwane Kotane, JB Marx and Dan Tloome; a hamlet to George Montshiwa as well as Dr. Silas Modiri Molema, and many more heroes and heroines of our self less-struggle for liberation. I am sure that the masses of our people and ***Magosi a rona*** will not call me for questioning on Monday when I ask you to: “please continue with your sterling work”. We are grateful of your leadership method. We are humbled by your presence. It looked like a mission impossible but so far you have made it possible. MOTSOGAPELE A RE: “KGOMO MOGATLA TSHWARA KA THATA E SERE GO UTLWA SEBODU WA KGAOGA”.

We have a huge responsibility to transform our society from an apartheid, racist, tribalistic, bantustan, regionalistic and chauvinistic society to a united, non racial, non sexist, democratic and free society. It is a commitment made by our founding fathers in 1912. We commend the ANC as a ruling party on the celebration of the centenary. 100 years in existence is not an easy task. From 1994 or seventeen years after the birth of our democracy we are still committed to this principle of a united, non racial, non sexist, democratic and free society.

As a government and society in general we face serious challenges such as abject poverty, high levels of unemployment and inequality amongst our people. The state in general and government in particular has embarked on programs, since 1994, aimed at eradicating these anomalies. Our presence in the state, collectively and individually should serve as a melting pot to fight poverty, to reduce unemployment and combat spatial patterns of apartheid inequality.

There is, however, a temptation, amongst some of us, to use our presence in the state through mandate of the people to be 'statist'. We behave as if we are the state ourselves. We use our access to state power and access to those who have access to state power, to dish out patronage. Patronage does not mean patriotism. These are diametrically-antagonistic paradoxes. Patronage means loyalty and worship to an individual irrespective of the consequences, as long as the material-gain is reciprocated. Patriotism means love to your own country and its people. Patriots die in the battlefields in defense of their own country and its people. They don't die for a person or money. They live and die for their people and the country. However, poverty, unemployment and inequality create a fertile ground for patronage. Our people, who suffer under these triple ills, are seen as gullible elements for prosecution of the agenda of patronage.

A challenge that faces our embryonic democratic society is the failure to distinguish between patriotism and patronage. Advocates and architectures of patronage hate patriots. They abhor them. In their quest for self aggrandizement, architects of patronage do everything in their power to subject patriots into self-imposed exile. They make sure that they assassinate characters of patriots in a very clandestine and Gestapo pattern, because patriots are viewed as obstacles in their self-declared-quest to capture the ANC and therefore government.

Architects of patronage think they can do as they wish with our people, because of the ills of poverty, unemployment and inequality, even if it means reducing them into political mercenaries who must disrupt good governance through methods of anarchism.

Historians will be in consonance with our thesis when we argue that Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky were in the same party and from the same country. Joseph Stalin used all unorthodox methods at his disposal to make sure that life of Leon Trotsky was unbearable. He terrorized him psychologically and he physically. He forced Trotsky into exile in Mexico and Trotsky was finally and mysteriously assassinated. The former was a patriot and the latter was an architect of patronage. Architects of patronage thrive on false populism and are by nature intolerant. They believe in the cult of personality and the blind worship of the syndrome of **"me, myself and I"**. Eg. **"I** want to be a Premier". "What will happen to **ME** if I don't become a Minister or an MEC"? What will happen to **MYSELF** if don't become this or that? The theory of me, myself and I is lethal to a discourse of collectivism.

Architects of patronage thrive on misrepresentations, propaganda and dissemination of lies and mistruths. Joseph Goebbels, a minister of propaganda in the Nazi Germany writes: "if you tell a lie over and over again, it manifests itself as the truth in the minds of the people". Ostensibly, I am making this symbiosis of history relations, because, there are some amongst us, who have elected not to be patriots of our democratic Republic of South Africa, but, narrow architects of patronage. They want to verbose and abuse our poor members of society for their own narrow ends by telling lies about fellow citizens and comrades. At times they use these fascist methods at the upper echelons of power, simply, to achieve their narrow ends, which has nothing to do with the new patriotism we are seeking to imbue. We need to be weary of this emerging character. It is dangerous to our shared value system and revolutionary heritage.

The North West Provincial Government should not be termed the private farm or grazing fields of certain persons in society. The Municipalities in the North West Province should not be called an exclusive terrain or private domain of any person in society. That is, without this person, things fall apart! North West Province belongs to all the people of North West irrespective of race, colour, sex, or social origin. All the children of the North West, including the youth, must be given equal opportunities and hope for the future.

Personality cult was rife under the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, after he successfully plotted the capture of the African Patriot and warrior, Patrice Lumumba and finally his assassination, he made sure that all bill boards in Zaire carried his face. Private homes of every citizen of Zaire had to have a picture Mobutu. Poems and songs were composed in honor of Mobutu Sese Seko. Ordinary people were forced to worship Mobutu Seseko. Hence the cliché: "Everything for Mobutu. Nothing against Mobutu". Anyone who differs with Mobutu Sese Seko, however wrong or right, was viewed, as being possessed by evil spirits, therefore deserving to be stoned to death. These are symptoms of totalitarianism and personality cult. Conversely, the richness of our freedom and democracy allows for tolerance of diversity. As we interact socially, during and after lunch, we should ask ourselves this difficult question: do we have an emergence of this tragic phenomenon of the rise of totalitarianism and personality cult, in our province and our society? Are we facing a challenge of the **"MOBUTUFICATION"** of the North West Province? Is it affecting our shared value system? If it is there, how best can we combat this negative propensity?

Amilcar Cabral of Guinea Bissau writes *"We must practice revolutionary democracy in every aspect of our Party life. Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories..."*

In answering this question let us not tell lies, let us expose lies whenever they are told. Furthermore and in answering these difficult questions, let us claim no easy victories. Hopefully Amilcar Cabral will lie peaceful and calm if we answer this question and answer it honestly and sincerely.

In the end, it is Pixley ka Isaka Seme, one of the founding-fathers of the ANC, who brilliantly writes, back in 1911: "We are one people. These divisions, these jealousies, are the cause of all our woes today." In memory, of Pixley ka Isaka Seme, (President of the ANC: 1930-1937), let us strife for unity of purpose and unity of action amongst our people in the North West Province and South Africa in general.

Let me once again take this opportunity to extend a vote of thanks to the officials who have worked tirelessly in ensuring the success of this event, this was indeed history in the making. This is a very memorable event. May you continue with the good work you are doing. Special thanks to our security agencies, who have provided security and safe environment during preparation of this event. Let me further express my special appreciation to the Department of Sports Art & Culture, for providing a *Spectacular Razzmatazz* during the proceedings of today. Please continue with the good work. To the management of the North West University Mafikeng campus, in particular, Professor, Kgwadi thank you very much for your cooperation and hosting the citizens of the North West Province. To the Department of Public Works and Roads, thank you very much, for your contribution in terms of human and material support.

To our municipalities across the province, thank you very much for your support. The Municipality of Mafikeng and Ngaka Modiri Molema, the host town and the host district, job well done. The Municipality of Ditsobotla, Tswaing, Ramotshere and Ratlou, thanks very much. To the official sponsors, thank you so much for your support. To all the service providers; thank you very much for your support. To our guests – you the people of our dearly beloved province, thank you. A *bon voyage* for those who will be travelling back home, observe the rules of the road. Please respect our campaign of arrive alive.

A special regard to **"Magosi a rona"**, and all the dignitaries. Thank you for coming. To all fellow and honorable members of the NWPL, thank you very much for your support.

1. Kgosi Maubane, Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, **re a leboga ga o tlotse le rona.**
2. Kgosi Mabe, Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, sechaba se itumeletse kemo nokeng ya gago.
3. Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi of Bafokeng, re a leboga Mokwena ga o tlotse le sechaba sa gago.
4. Kgosi Nyalala Pilane of Bakgatla ba Kgafela. Kgabo! Sechaba se leboga go menagane! Sedibelo!
5. Kgosi Montshiwa. In truth, pitso e e beditswe ke wena Seapara-Nkwe. Thank you for having us.
6. The family of Onkgopotse Tiro, **re lebogela maoto a lona.**
7. The family of Keitseng from Botswana, **re leboga ga lo toletse ka kwano.**
8. Dr. Molefi Oliphant, Vice President of Confederation of African Football (CAF). Maybe you should provide us with tips after this on how to best qualify for World Cup in Brazil in 2014, now that we are not hosting. Thanks very much for being with us today.
9. Ambassador Kotane, thank you for coming.
10. Miss. South Africa, Belinda Bam, thank you very much for blessing our occasion with the radiation of your beauty.
11. Miss. Universe, Leila Lopez, all the way from the Republic of Angola, thank you for grazing this august occasion, with what William Shakespeare calls: "beauty too rich to use".
12. The leadership of the Judiciary in the Province, Judge President Monica Leeuw, you represent a very critical arm of the state, your support to our constitutional democracy means a lot to our society. Thank you very much for your support.
13. Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, the only judge who broke the world record by being interviewed for two days. You have become the source of inspiration to many young legal eagles here at home. North West is proud of you and we hope that you are proud of us. Re lebogela maoto a gago. Thank you very much for coming. Those who have negative energy, have patience in them, they will come around.

14. Members of the media, both electronic and press. Thank you for your partnership.
15. To my family, in particular my dearest daughter, Nomzamo, thank you for allowing me to perform this mammoth task of serving the nation, without expecting something in return, your father loves you dearly.
16. To all the staff members, who worked tirelessly and spent sleepless nights, to make this event an amazing grace, thank you very much. You are simply amazing.
17. To the Head of the Administration, Mr. Kgantsi and your team – THE A TEAM – thank you.
18. To the ANC, the leader of our society, thank you for your support and guidance.

May The Lord and the African Gods bless the North West Province and our Republic!

Let us eat, drink and be merry for this was a day of fortune and wonders.

Thanks very much!!!

A pula e lo nele багаetsho!