

**SPEECH NOTES FOR KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR WILLIES MCHUNU AT THE
THATHULWAZI GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 15
OCTOBER 2010**

All Protocol Observed

It is a great honour and pleasure to be standing here to congratulate and encourage the delegates of Thathulwazi. I have to start by saying that this is not the end but the beginning. Now that you have acquired all these Project and Financial management skills, the way you do business needs to change. A CPF project can not be conducted in the same manner as it was before the delegates acquired such skills. CPF Project management must change! You are the ones who are going to do it.

A writer once said “May God grant us the wisdom to discover the right, the will to choose it and the strength to make it endure” This quote sums up the commitment that was displayed by the delegates so that they would ensure that their CPFs strive at optimum levels. Members who have completed this course have discovered the right thing to do; and that is to be active participants in fighting the evil that is depriving our communities of development, depriving our families of a sense of security within their homes, and our fellow citizens of a sense of control. We all know that it is close to impossible to feel in control when you do not feel safe.

I am not saying this because I want you to despair and be hopeless but to prepare you for the road that is still ahead. Your community trusted you and therefore they elected and nominated you to be the foot soldiers of their safety. Your local CPF members trusted you which is why they chose you to gain this knowledge for their own benefit. It was not the police, the FET college nor the Department of Community Safety and Liaison that chose you as delegates, but it was the communities you serve that had faith on your capabilities, that when you are empowered with the knowledge, they will in-turn be empowered to succeed in the fight against crime.

Our president, Mr Jacob Zuma proclaimed in his State of the Nations Address that education and skills acquisition will be a government priority for the next five years. He also stated that more must be done to fight crime; more investment needs to be targeted at improving and sustaining community safety initiatives. He was well aware that crime cannot be fought by police alone but in partnership with all stakeholders; but more importantly the community.

It is therefore our duty as respective departments to ensure that the community members that VOLUNTEER their time, energy, and service are equipped with the right and necessary skills to succeed in their endeavour. These skills must not be fly-by-night skills, but skills that can afford participants an opportunity to also grow and progress as individuals.

It is painful to loose valuable members of the CPFs because they have gained employment, but as government we cannot be selfish and ill-train our participants. It is our fundamental duty that whatever service we deliver must be of highest standard. We want the project to yield positive results. Actually we need it too, because then, it will be achieving greater goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable economic development.

Since the project is in its third phase this year, we can already view the positive outcomes like the following:

- During the registration process of CPFs, we acknowledged that the documents needed for the process to be completed are readily available from the CPFs;
- Some of the CPF delegates have been employed as administrators in different department – SAPS and NPA to name just a few;
- Members better administer their finances and records now. They then know how to fund-raise for their projects without waiting for handouts from government;
- But most importantly, we as the Department continually strive to achieve the mandate of promoting good relations between the community and the police as achieved through the Thathulwazi project.

You will recognise that we have combined the graduation of Thathulwazi with the certification of registered CPFs with the Department. It is the flow of what the CPFs are capable of, that makes us combine the processes. This will be an encouragement to those CPFs that have not yet bought into the idea. Thathulwazi is meant to grow from strength to strength.

I know you have witnessed how communities have got into disputes that have led to the loss of lives. This was because of minor conflicts that could not be resolved at early stages. I hope that the department of education will in the near future include conflict resolution in their curriculum. This will assist in solving problems at ward, street and Izigodi (traditional regions) level.

This year Thathulwazi was also afforded to SAPS coordinators. They were thrilled, sometimes even more thrilled than the community members because they were equipped with skills that empowered them to better manage their responsibility at work. This is indeed a challenge to the Department and its principal partners, the SAPS which is ensuring how the CPF coordinators are capacitated, as much as it is done to the community members.

It is an honour for this Department to partner with the department of Education (DOE) through the FET Directorate. The level of service that they afforded the participants is clear evidence that just like our Department; they too, are striving to ensure that Batho Pele principles are realised. We could not have asked for better services. Education aimed to please us but they managed to graciously win the hearts of participants.

Former president – Nelson Mandela is usually quoted from his book *'Long Walk To Freedom'* saying – “I have discovered that after climbing a great hill, one only discovers that there are many more hills to climb, I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance that I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibility, and I dare not linger for my walk has not yet ended”

Today is that moment that we take to acknowledge how much we have achieved, to celebrate what we have achieved, to be honoured for what we have achieved, and also to learn from what we have achieved. BUT it is not the end of our journey as the CPF, the police and the respective departments because more work needs to be done.

With what we have achieved, we have also created more demand from the community because of the positive result that we have shown through Thathulwazi. Ningesabi, ningethuki because “YES WE CAN”; we have already SUCCEEDED, all we need to do now is sustain our positive MOMENTUM.

CONGRATULATIONS to all delegates and let us press on to building a KZN that is safe and secure for all because together we can do more.

In closing, I would not be doing justice to what we have initiated when I became part of this service, if I do not relate this to “Building a United Front against Crime”. I assure you that the skills you have acquired will definitely assist KwaZulu Natal when we go to the ground and implement “Operation Hlasela”. The time for the thugs to have their Hollywood is over. We want to bring back our streets and neighbourhoods for all KwaZulu Natal citizens to enjoy a free and safe community.

“Graduation is only a concept. In real life everyday you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you grasp that, you will make a difference” therefore let join our efforts in “Building a United Front Against Crime.

I thank you.