

SPEECH NOTES FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MEC MR WILLIES MCHUNU AT THE SPORTS DAY AND LONG SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY AT PORT SHEPSTONE HELD ON FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2015.

- Programme Director;
- Head of Department, Sibusiso Gumbi;
- MANCO members;
- All unions represented in the department;
- Members of staff members who have served the department and people of KwaZulu-Natal for a long period;
- All members of staff of the Department present.

It is always a pleasure to have this opportunity to address all members of staff of the Department of Transport.

The last time we had this opportunity, on the occasion of the department's Sports and Wellness Day, was in September 2013, in Ladysmith.

While we were not able to meet in this manner last year; I am mindful that we did get the opportunity to address and interact with teams in the Ladysmith and Empangeni regions, respectively, during October last year. The latter programme of roadshows to the department's regions will continue even next month.

But today is about taking time out, as a department, to attend to the very critical matter of wellness. It should always be borne in mind that it only a healthy, physically active and mentally fit workforce that can advance the mandate of this department with vigour.

It is an engaged, involved, inclusive team that works collaboratively in the department which can ensure that we serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa with dedication, commitment, humility and loyalty.

It is also an "up-to-the-task" workforce, in all respects, that can deliver the radical socio-economic transformation programme government is implementing.

Besides the numerous health benefits, sport has and continues to contribute to social integration.

Furthermore, sporting activities also assist in building a culture of peace and tolerance by bringing people together on common ground, crossing national and other boundaries to promote understanding and mutual respect.

By the end of today, we should have enhanced teamwork, promoted co-operation and cohesiveness over competition, and continue to work in a manner that puts people first, "*Batho Pele*".

Long Service Awards

Among us are members of staff who have worked and dedicated themselves in the service of the public for a long period of time.

The Long Service Awards, which are an important feature of the Sports and Wellness Day, are aimed at recognising the contribution these public servants have made to South Africa.

Specifically, these are senior members of society, *abanye ontanga bami*, who have worked for more than 30 to 40 years.

In today's ceremony, 189 employees who have completed 30 years continuous service as well as to 39 employees who have completed 40 years continuous service – will receive certificates. Congratulations to you all!

We pay tribute to all of you who are receiving long service awards for a job well-done. As public servants, your work for the people is notable as we transform our country towards becoming a truly "democratic, united, non-racial, non-sexist, equal and prosperous" nation.

An empowered, skilled workforce

The current government has always highlighted skills and human resources as one of its strategic priorities.

This underpins our commitment to empowering public servants through continuous training and education, so you can better contribute towards eradicating poverty, unemployment and inequality – the triple challenge our country faces.

I am keenly aware of the impact the department's programmes are making and these include:

- Internships;
- Learnerships;
- Apprenticeships for technicians;
- Bursaries for students studying civil, transportation and mechanical engineering;
- Bursaries for employees already in the department;
- Traffic Police Training; and
- Adult Education and Training programme.

It is our obligation to continue to invest in these skills development and training programmes to ensure that we create a sufficient pool for skills to meet our current and future needs – across all levels.

Like President Jacob Zuma once said, and I quote: "To achieve all our goals, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards of service, probity and integrity. Together we must build a society that prizes excellence and rewards effort, which shuns laziness and incompetence." Close quote.

Therefore, to all our staff members, the enhanced service delivery to citizens depends upon a clean, accountable, efficient and effective administration and governance.

We must always take a self-critical look and decide how as Department of Transport we can change the poor perceptions of the public about government.

You must be concerned that corruption and maladministration continue to define government's work, more than the great service delivery achievements we record in terms of our roads infrastructure and transportation programmes.

You must be very worried when your department receives qualified audits from the Auditor-General. But beyond being worried, you must resolve to change the status quo, and strive to be excellent.

We need unity and dedication in order to provide a quality of service to the citizens of our province, and country.

It is my sincere hope that these team-building exercises will strengthen relationships and communication amongst you, as staff members of our department.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you for your commitment to the Public Service as a whole and to the Department of Transport specifically.

I thank you.