

ADDRESS BY MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, HON.
N MAHLANGU DURING THE ANNUAL GOVAN MBEKI
AWARDS (GMA) CEREMONY IN MIDDELBURG –
STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

2018

Programme Director
Honourable Premier, Ms RM Mtshweni
Members of the Executive Council
Members of the Portfolio Committee
Honourable Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, Clr TS Masilela
Honourable Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Clr BJ Tolo
Mayors from other Municipalities
Members of Mayoral Committees
Traditional Leadership
Head of Department, Mr K Masange
Government Officials (National, Provincial and Local)
Representatives of Government Entities
Representatives of Housing Associations,
Business Members
Social Structures
Contractors and Consultants
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Lotjhani

I do not underscore this opportunity given to me by the people of Mpumalanga and the ruling African National Congress to stand and address this ceremony.

It is with humbleness that I welcome you to the 2018 Govan Mbeki Awards.

This year's awards are hosted under the 100 Years Centenary Celebration of former President, Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

The two political icons made a substantial influence in bringing diverse South Africans together – with clear view of development.

The awards are named after the late African National Congress's stalwart and one of South Africa's heroes – Govan Mbeki.

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“Comrade Gov” as he was affectionately known played a major role in furthering the cause of building a nation free from inequality.

He also received the Isitwalandwe Medal, the highest award given to individuals who are distinguished by their leadership and heroism.

This ceremony comes at a time where the country has to consolidate all the hard gains recorded since the dawn of democracy.

The campaign seeks to reward individual contractors and stakeholders who have excelled and performed best in the delivery of human settlement and other basic services.

As we have already welcomed all from the length and breadth of the Province - we are pleased to be here tonight to celebrate excellence within the sector.

In corporation with our social partners, the Department is passionate in ensuring that we change the provincial landscape and reverse the spatial planning of the apartheid regime.

The ANC 54th National Conference resolved on three points about how we should manage municipal spaces for radical socio-economic transformation:

- 1 “The ANC must play a leading role in driving the Integrated Urban Development Framework to reverse apartheid spatial patterns, ensure resilience and quality of human settlements, and sustainability and efficiency of the overall system.
- 2 The top 100 urban settlements as well as their rural hinterlands must be prioritised to achieve the goals on integration, inclusion and economic growth, thereby creating a more equitable spatial economy and deracializing communities.
- 3 The overriding spatial challenge is overcoming the legacy of apartheid, densifying and integrating urban and rural development nodes and activity corridors. This requires government departments and all spheres government to work together in new ways that achieve coordinated impact”

This we do in line with what the ANC NEC 2018 January 08 Statement states: “The ANC will work with renewed determination to unite all South Africans – regardless of race, class or affiliation – around a shared vision of fundamental transformation.

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We call upon all sectors in society to work with us in trying to resolved challenges that arises from time to time. Working together we should minimize the interruption of project on sites due to miss understanding around the share of the 30%.

The President of the ANC, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa addressing business people during the Thuma Mina Campaign held in KZN, he made this call “there should be consequences” for what he term “radical economic robbery where individuals disrupt work projects demanding a 30% stake”.

This phenomenon has become rife in some parts of the province and they should be told that they are stalling service delivery.

Let me also take this opportunity and appreciate contractors who have made it their business to assist government in providing shelter for our people from their pockets.

Your contributions are highly appreciated.

As we celebrate tangible and intangible heritage, let me join millions of South Africans and wish the ANCYL of Anton Lembede 74th anniversary and wish the ANCYL all the best in its endeavor of being the political home of the youth of South Africa.

Yesterday marked 41 years of the fateful day when the apartheid government murdered Bantu Stephen Biko.

On the 26th of September we celebrate Winnie Mandela’s birthday since her passing earlier this year.

This month we celebrate the birthdays of Mam Lillian Ngoyi, doyen of the women’s struggle and Liz Abrahams, veteran trade unionist and freedom fighter.

The relationship that exists between government and its stakeholders is a marathon – rather than a sprint.

Like athletes who know what it takes to be in shape - practicing remains the focus at all times in order to secure the ultimate accolade.

The Department is enhancing its level of cooperation with all parties to deliver much needed services.

Our delivery quest compels us to ensure we facilitate the development if integrated human settlements with proper and basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and all other amenities to households.

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These services though ought to impact on Gogo Mabena at Siyabuswa, Babe Tsabetse at Mganduzweni and Mme Manake at Bushbuckridge.

The Freedom Charter states boldly, **“All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security”**.

This is an opportune time and an honour for me to reflect that the awards are aimed at bringing the participants and partners together and thanking them for their efforts in trying under very difficult conditions to help the homeless own houses.

Programme Director, the Department is now focusing on the holistic approach to providing houses that have all the requirements as all complete dignified houses need to have.

Delivery of complete houses will now be fully fledged houses with internal portable water, sewer system, roads and community amenities like crèches, playing fields, clinics and community halls. This then will provide proper settlements to communities.

The Govan Mbeki campaign honours best performing contractors who played a key role in delivering much needed services to communities.

Best performing participants in various categories are awarded accolades in recognition of their work. The awards will culminate in a national event where all provincial champions will compete amongst themselves.

The Department hopes that the awards will continue to be a programme that will trigger enthusiasm and motivate all to make the province proud of its contractors and other stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen, when one considers the huge backlog and challenges facing the industry; it is befitting to urge all partners to join hands in service delivery.

Human Settlements is a social responsibility, hence the call to join forces and have a common vision to shelter our communities.

Let us go out there and – Be the Legacy – in line with the 100 Years Centenary of Tata Mandela and Mama Sisulu.

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Once again, you are all winners. Enjoy Heritage Month and the rest of the evening.

Congratulations.

Thank you.