

**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM,  
MR MN MOKOENA, MPL, DURING THE DEPARTMENTAL  
STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT AT INGWENYAMA  
LODGE (16-17 JULY 2011)**

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**The Programme Facilitator, Mr Godfrey Mothobi**

**The Acting Head of Department, Mr Sam Maluleka;**

**Chairperson of the MGB & MEGA Boards, Mr Jerry  
Vilakazi**

**Chairperson of the MTPA Board, Mr Jerry Ngomane**

**CEO of the MGB, Mr Bheki Mlambo;**

**Acting CEO of the MTPA, Dr Nthabiseng Motete;**

**Acting CEO of MEGA, Mr Jerry Mahlangu;**

**Senior Management and officials from the Department  
and our Entities;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

***Once Again, Good Afternoon***

Yesterday in my opening remarks, I alluded to the fact that tomorrow on the 18<sup>th</sup> July South Africa and the world is bracing itself to celebrate the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of Nelson Mandela in pursuit of a vision to build a free, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous South Africa.

I am being humbled by the SABC key message which is an extract from Mandela's book – Long walk to Freedom, and it says ***“Throughout my life I’ve survived and anchored by your collective wisdom.”*** I am equally certain that it is collective wisdom which must sustain us through the socio-economic triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality as presented by the SERO and our MEGDP.

Furthermore, yesterday I’ve outlined the electoral mandate of the ruling party, and at the heart of it is the vision of creating decent employment opportunities, modern infrastructure and vibrant inclusive economy aimed at improving the quality of life for all.

Undoubtedly the level and quality of engagements over the last two days reflects the collective determination to address with urgency the slow pace of economic transformation.

We are not under an illusion that it is going to be a “hunky dory process” but we must pace ourselves by isolating quick wins, from medium to long term interventions.

Our people can't wait for another 10 to 50 years to taste the benefit of our liberation struggle including economic emancipation. Our plans must therefore be an expression of a developmental state.

We are emerging out of this strategic planning session with the first draft of an APP for the 2013/14 financial year and a multi-year strategic focus consistent with the requirements of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF).

It has been noted through the 2011/12 annual and 2012/13 first quarter performance analysis that the road ahead is long and a difficult one, compounded by the risk profile of department as presented in this Strategic planning session.

One of the planned outputs was to align our activities/projects with the electoral mandate as per the 2009 to 2014 MTSF, our MEGDP and its POA to ensure they speak to these National priorities.

Judging from the presentations since this morning I am beginning to get a sense of hope that we are slowly getting our ducks in a row.

The 2030 Draft National Plan and our MEGDP recognises that turning around the SA and/or the provincial economy is a multi-decade project that invigorates our synergy and integrated capacity to:

- Respond to hard core social and economic realities presented by SERO through appropriate interventions which are well researched and developed in this regard our knowledge management unit must be well resourced and capacitated.
- There is a need to articulate more clearly detailed, specific interventions to leverage on the fastest growing sectors with a desired employment propensity in the Province including the analysis of the four municipalities around which the provincial economy revolves, as I indicated this morning what is the posture of our APP in these Municipalities but also what are we doing with the rest, I've mentioned as an examples: Dipaleseng and Delmas.

The Spatial profile of these sectors should enable us to ascertain more effectively the benefits of such interventions for particular localities and districts.

This should enable us, as I said, to facilitate more specific integrated economic measures to support the stronger local economies and mitigate the weaker ones through CRDP, a programme vital to the rural character of the Province.

As explained when MEGDP and its POA was presented it is imperative that our plans should embrace regional integration and international co-operation.

Through multi-lateral institutions such as SADC and initiatives such as the Maputo corridor, the tri-land agreement, the basis has been laid for this level of co-operation.

Promoting trade and foreign direct investment requires us to address the competitiveness of our enterprises and economic sectors. An area where MEGA, MTPA, National agencies, other sector departments and private sector can play a pivotal role.

The presentations and discussions over the last two days has sensitised that:

First there is a need to reduce the red tape which escalates the costs of doing business in our province but that should not be at the expense of our environmental heritage that is essential to sustainable development in the interests of the future generations.

As indicated in my remarks yesterday, we need to overcome our existing institutional deficiencies and constraints induced by the negative organisational culture and absence of work ethics and values I talk about (I am not going to repeat them). Safe to say the presentation by the Premier's office on Service Delivery improvement planning and charter is not only mandatory but spot on with regard to the desired paradigm shift such as working in "silos" to a more collaborative approach by putting the citizens first – Batho Pele.

If you go through my speeches you will realise now how many times I've raised the importance of Batho Pele and the Departmental Service Charter, maybe I need to remind you all and sundry that when I speak, I am not simply going through the motions, I expect reciprocal action or at least reasons for failing to act.

My personal assessment is that the layer of leadership in the department has the potential to make things happen, but its potential is being undermined by deficiency of organisational discipline and a tendency to be fragile when exposed to pressure of operational challenges, such as limited resources.

I will need a resilient leadership, characterised by attitude of wanting to do more within the limited resources as we carry out this wide-ranging mandate of the department as per the injunction of the electorate.

I am sure we all had time constraints in dealing with the fundamentals which are at the core of our aspirations, I will therefore direct that beyond the Cabinet Lekgotla you must reconvene to tie up the loose ends, some of which I've alluded to this morning which include:

- Illusive completion of Organisational Structure i.r.o requisite institutional capacity.
- Finalisation of the departmental strategies;
- Finalisation of the service delivery agreements
- Interim resource package for Regions including their roles pending the finalisation of the Organisational Structure.
- Role of DFI's and finalisation of all MOU's.

- Let's continue to interact with the grocery list of proposed projects presented to us including in the green economy most of which can be aligned to the EPWP programme.
- Position the Province to gain the maximum benefit from the National Infrastructure Programme announced by the President in the State of the Nation Address.

We also need to ensure that those limited resources are deployed to strategic point of delivery including the functionality of our Regional Offices.

Finally, is each and every leader, manager and operation in our different business unit in sync with our overall Departmental vision and mission statement.

Surely, the point I am making is that you cannot align your planning and operations with the vision and mission statement you don't know.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to thank you all for the fruitful engagement over the last two days.



May I also request that the Acting HOD ensure there is fair representation in our Mandela Day projects starting tomorrow at Nyalunga Secondary School and to the rest of the programme throughout July month, ensuring that each manager has his or her 67 minutes.

For the third time in this department, I am quoting the inspirational words of Alimicab Cabral, a poet, revolutionary and a son of the African Soil, who argues in his book, materialist, theory and practice of culture and ethnicity, that “Always bear in mind that people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head, they are fighting to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.” So the real work has just begun.

Once again, thank you for your valuable contributions.

I thank you.