

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR J.L (JABU) MAHLANGU, MPL DURING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE MR WANI JOHANNES MASHEGO HELD AT CHURCH ON THE HILL, KAMAGUGU, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

**Thursday, 04 February 2010**

Programme Director, Mr Lubisi;

The Mashego and Mathebula families;

Representatives of Nehawu, Cosatu, SACP and the ANC;

Officials from the Department and other Government Departments present;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Just two days before celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unbanning of political parties in our country, death robed us off a committed young cadre. Just eleven days before we could celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of our liberation icon, *tat'u* Nelson Mandela, death visited us and robed us off a committed colleague – who lived to ensure that the rights of the workers are protected at all times. As a devoted member of our movement, Wani was not only protecting the rights of the workers, but was a dedicated employee whose commitment saw him move up the ranks in government. He rose from being a Secretary when he joined government in 1998, to become a Deputy Director for Trade and Investment Promotion in the Department until his untimely death.

On behalf of the Department, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to the Mashego family on the passing away of their son, the late **Wani Johannes Mashego**. I would also like to thank them for having lent Wani to us, to assist us in our quest to better the lives of our people.

We will always treasure the valuable contribution he made as a member of *the dedet* family, towards fulfilling our constitutional mandates. We feel your pain, hence we implore the almighty God to give you strength and give you courage to accept things we do not have control over. Though Wani's journey came to a halt abruptly, we must draw solace from the fact that he has done much in a short space of time. All of us seated here, we do not know the day, the hour, the minute, the second nor the way he will come to recall us. Let us not ask why Wani, for it is His prerogative and we must not question it.

To the Mashego family:

*"May you see God's light on the path ahead, when the road you walk is dark. May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard, may hardness never turn your heart to stone! May you always remember when the shadows fall – (that) you do not walk alone!"*

~ Irish Blessing

In paying tribute to the departed, may I borrow the words of the late Michael Jackson, and I quote:

*"Like a comet, blazing across the evening sky;  
Like a rainbow, fading in the twinkling of an eye;  
Shiny and sparkly, and splendidly bright;  
Here one day, gone one night!*

*Like the loss of sunlight on a cloudy afternoon;  
Like a castle built upon a sandy beach;*

*Born to amuse, to inspire, to delight;  
Here one day, gone one night!*

*Like a sunset dying with the rising of the moon;  
Gone too soon!"*

To Wani's friends and colleagues:

Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow.

Once more, our heartfelt condolences go to the family of the Late Wani Johannes Mashego.

*May the soul of your beloved and departed son, rest in eternal peace!*

*I thank you.*