

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR SIKHUMBUZO KHOLWANE, MPL, DURING THE DONATION AND HAND-OVER OF TYRE SERVICING EQUIPMENT TO NTULI TYRES AND WHEEL QUIP AT MOLOTO, THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**Monday, 18 July 2016**

- Programme Director, Mr Lemmy Mdluli;
- MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Vusi Shongwe;
- The Executive Mayor of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Councillor Ndaweni Mahlangu;
- Councillors present;
- The Head of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Muzi Mkhize;
- The Head of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr William Mthombothi;
- Our Strategic Partner – Sumitomo Rubber South Africa;
- The Representative of SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency);

- Senior managers and officials of government present;
- Our beneficiaries, Nkosinathi and Makhosi Ntuli of Ntuli Tyres and Wheel Quip;
- Patrons;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

## Good Morning/Lotjani/Dumelang!

Programme Director;

1. Today marks a significant day in the history of our country and the world at large. It marks **the birthday** of one of the founding fathers of our freedom and democracy, *iSithwalandwe/Seaparankwe*, the first President of a democratic South Africa, *Tat'u Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela*.
2. He may be gone, but **his name, his legacy and his selfless deeds** will remain with us for posterity.
3. During his entire life, **Madiba struggled for freedom, justice and equality for all South Africans**, irrespective of race, colour, ethnicity or creed.

4. He taught us that **we are one people; we are all South Africans** hence we should not allow our diverse cultures to separate us.
5. As our country's Motto dictates, *!ke e: Ixarra //ke*, meaning "**Diverse People Unite**" in the Khoisan language of the IXam people, we must do so in continuing with the legacy of Madiba.
6. *Tat'u* Nelson Mandela was not only a son of Africa. He was a citizen of the world; a world icon whose selfless good deeds continue to be cherished by everyone, the world over, hence the **18<sup>th</sup> of July – his birthday**, has been declared the **Nelson Mandela International Day** by the United Nations.
7. During this day, every one of us is encouraged to **'Take Action!'** and **'Inspire Change'** by dedicating at least **67 minutes** of our time in bringing about change to the lives of others.
8. Let us all strive to **Make Every Day, a Nelson Mandela Day!**

Programme Director;

9. The significance of the small business sector in economic growth, and consequently in job creation cannot be over-emphasised.
10. It is a well-known fact that small businesses have overtaken big businesses in terms of job creation.
11. This is a commitment we made in the **National Development Plan (NDP)** – that of ensuring that the **Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)** contribute 90 percent of new jobs created by 2030.
12. What this tells us, is that small businesses are **a force to be reckoned with**, and this calls on us to **exploit their full potential** in order to benefit fully from them.
13. As the government of Mpumalanga, we have committed ourselves to see this happen, in order to deal with the **triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality**.

14. To this end, we have taken a conscious and deliberate decision to **strengthen our support to small businesses and co-operatives**, in partnership with the private sector.
15. Our quest, as government, is to ensure that small businesses, like big businesses, get to claim a significant stake in the country's wealth, as committed through the ***Freedom Charter***.
16. This is supported through the **2016 Local Government Election Manifesto of the governing African National Congress** which has re-affirmed our commitment towards economic freedom, mobilisation of society, commitment to develop and strengthen local economies, create jobs and promote job placement especially for the youth.
17. This is nothing new to us, given that the **ANC-led government has a Portfolio of Evidence on the work done** since taking over government in 1994, and we will continue to work hard and support small business ventures, as we continue to deliver services to our people.
18. ***Siyaqhuba – Asinavallo, sisebenza kanzima!***

Programme Director;

19. Our country requires an economy that can meet the needs of all our economic citizens, the people and their enterprises in a way that is sustainable.
20. However this can only be possible if our economy can build on the full potential of all persons and communities across the length and breadth of the Province.
21. We have thus outlined broad economic strategies for the purpose of transforming the economy.
22. Such strategies include the **Provincial Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Strategy** which highlights numerous initiatives that are intended to empower black entrepreneurs.
23. Our intention, through this Strategy, is to **increase the number of black-owned enterprises** in order for them to realise meaningful economic participation and beneficiation.

24. Our visit here today, is to **Inspire Change** and **Make an Imprint** towards the success of small businesses in our townships, such as the one we have gathered at.
25. When we launched the **Tyre Initiative** last year, we committed to **purchase tyre servicing equipment for ten (10) such small businesses, to the tune of R1, 5 million.**
26. What it means is that **each of the ten (10) identified township tyre service centres** will receive equipment worth R150 000.
27. I am therefore delighted to indicate that the ANC-led government has keep this commitment, as we are here today, to **hand-over the equipment worth R150 000 to Ntuli Tyres and Wheel Quip.**
28. The equipment amongst others includes a **tyre changer, safety cage, balancer, 2 low-level lifters and 2 trolley jacks.**

29. The equipment will upscale this service centre, and enable the co-owners – **Nkosinathi and Makhosi Ntuli**, to provide high standard service to their clients around this area.
30. We have partnered with **Sumitomo Rubber South Africa** (trading as Dunlop Tyres) and **SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency)**, who will mentor such businesses and provide them with the non-financial assistance they may require, from time to time.
31. We are equally thankful to other Government Agencies, most notably, **NYDA (National Youth Development Agency)**, **NDA (National Development Agency)** and **NEF (National Empowerment Fund)** who have also partnered with us on this project.
32. Through their interventions, we are further able to provide both **financial and non-financial support** to small businesses.

33. **SEDA** has provided business development support by developing business plans, and systems support for some of these enterprises.
34. The **NYDA** is also closely working with us to support 3 Black Youth-Owned Enterprises that are part of this Programme.
35. In addition, **Dunlop Tyres** has agreed to provide them **with tyres and related products at very affordable prices** to make sure that they survive and make profit.
36. We will **tomorrow and on Wednesday**, hand-over similar equipment to other tyre service centres in **Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge and in Tonga in Nkomazi**, respectively.
37. By end of this month, all the ten (10) beneficiaries would have received their equipment.
38. ***Siyaqhuba – Asinavalo, sisebenza kanzima!***

Programme Director;

39. All these interventions, in the main, are intended to deal with the **triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality** within our communities.
40. Our intervention through the donation of the tyre equipment, will in the end improve the socio-economic well-being of the beneficiaries and their families.
41. Indeed, we are living up to the principles of Madiba, by **Taking Action** and **Inspiring Change**.
42. What better tribute therefore, can we make to Madiba, other than to **encourage our people to go out in their numbers on August 3, and vote for the political party** which has always been in the forefront of freedom, democracy and justice for all, including their economic emancipation?

43. I am not ashamed to say that the governing **African National Congress** has changed the lives of our people over the past 22 years, and commits to continue to do so without bias, moving forward.
44. We are not afraid to assert that no one else can do it better than the ANC-led government.
45. However we acknowledge that we have not done everything we committed to do, since we took office in 1994, hence your vote will enable us to address the outstanding issues.
46. Like President Jacob Zuma always say, ***Yinde landlela esiyihambayo!***
47. Let us **Take Action! Inspire Change, and Make Everyday a Nelson Mandela Day.**

Programme Director;

48. ***Siyaqhuba – Asinavallo, sisebenza kanzima!***

**49. *Together we move Mpumalanga forward!***

**I thank you/Ngiyathokoza/Ke a leboga!**