



REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE IZWELETHU DEVELOPMENT TRUST, MR SIKHUMBUZO KHOLWANE DURING LEGENDS' GALA DINNER TO HONOUR OUSTANDING COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVANTS IN MATSULU, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

05 December 2015

Programme Director

- **Leadership of the Alliance present**
 - **Heads of Departments and CEOs of our public entities**
 - **Captains of industries**
 - **Distinguished guests**
 - **Ladies and gentlemen**
1. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you to this annual event whose purpose is to recognise men and women who continue to make a difference in the lives of our community.
 2. This event takes place during an unforgettable day in the history of our young democracy.
 3. Programme Director, on this day two years ago, the whole world was sent to a period of national mourning.
 4. On this day, we lost a gallant revolutionary who led the mass democratic movement to the helm of a democratic state in 1994.



5. The towering presence of our beloved Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is still with us; his enduring love for the less fortunate has become a mantra of our social being and his legacy of selflessness continues to inspire us to be better people.
6. That is why, today, we take off our hats and bow our heads in honour of his unfailing commitment to the liberation of all South Africans and his dependable dedication to the ideals of the Freedom Charter throughout his life.
7. We have become a better nation because he personally sworn allegiance to the struggle for my liberation and your freedom even in the face of a long jail time.

Role of Izwelethu in the community

8. Programme Director, Izwelethu Development Trust takes pride in being part of the community development.
9. The Trust was established to champion the course of the less-privileged citizens within our community and to mould our youth into revered community builders.
10. We needed a machinery that will respond directly to the sad historic past and the effects of the current global and provincial economic situation to the community.



11. We felt that this community needed a trusted partner in the continuing struggle for decent homes for the orphans and child-headed families; a better education for children and our youth and a healthy living environment for all.
12. The struggle continues. Siyaqhuba.
13. We are determined to see every child in class. To this end for 2016 will put aside financial assistance for those in need to the tune of R200 000.
14. We are determined to see every member of this society living in a decent home;
15. We are determined to see the streets of Matsulu free of crime;
16. We are determined to see the needy having something to wear and eat at the end of each day;
17. We are determined to see the economy of this township grow and create jobs for the unemployed youth;
18. Ladies and gentlemen, we want to support all these courses because they are critical to helping Matsulu to be a model township during our lifetime.
19. We can make all these possible if we work together with our government and the business community.



20. I would like to appeal to the civil society, Community Based Organisations, entrepreneurs and business associations in Matsulu to be part of a process of defining the future of Matsulu.

21. Matsulu must be a better place for children to play and learn; Matsulu must be a business-friendly township; Matsulu must be a preferred stopover for domestic and international tourism visiting our Province.

Programme Director

22. Tonight is the night of celebration.

23. We are here to recognise the best contributions made by the sons and daughters of Matsulu to the development and growth of our community and the country.

24. We are here to honour those who went beyond the call of duty to represent us well in the workplace and business.

25. These are the people who makes the world know that Matsulu has the skills and capacity to Move South Africa and Mpumalanga Forward.

26. These are officials who epitomise that which make us proud to be the servants of the people.



27. These are the individuals who assist us to bridge the divide between the city and rural experience of the public service whether in the health care, social service, economic development fields, amongst others.
28. I am glad to share this platform with some of these extraordinary citizens from this growing modern township of Matsulu.
29. Programme Director, our purpose is to build a better society and better Province for the current and future generations.
30. This requires selflessness that characterised the honourable battles of the great heroes and heroines who fought and won the war against the apartheid and colonialism.

Conclusion

31. We have a chance, together to build on the great achievements of these men and women who are the recipients of our humble token of appreciation tonight.
32. We have another opportunity to renew our commitment to the service of the people, not because we want to be recognised next year, but because community development is the right thing to do.
33. We need to develop a greater empathy and *learn what it means to walk in the shoes of others.*



34. We must assume the honourable duty and responsibility to walk with our fellow citizens every step of the way.
35. This is a national task that each one of us must assume to lay a rightful claim to the society that we will become as envisaged in the National Development Plan.
36. We need to build to have a better society TOGETHER.
37. We need to work TOGETHER with the government, the civil society and our glorious movement to shield the vulnerable members of our society from the devastating effects of poverty and unemployment.
38. As I conclude, let me convey my appreciation to the team of volunteers and sponsors who made this occasion a success.
39. To all the nominees, thank you and congratulations for making it to the top of the selection criteria.
40. Together We Move South Africa Forward.
41. Thank you and have a good evening!