

REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MRS YN PHOSA, MPL ON THE OCCASION OF THE *BRICS* MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL ROADSHOW GALA DINNER AT THE GREENWAY WOODS RESORT IN WHITE RIVER, EHLANZENI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.

Monday, 18 March 2013

1. Opening Remarks

Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza;

Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Malusi Gigaba;

Colleagues in the Executive Council;

Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality, Councillor Cathy Dlamini;

Members of the diplomatic corps;

Councillors present;

Heads of Departments and Municipal Managers in our midst;

The business community;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Evening!

It gives me great pleasure, to welcome you to this, the *BRICS* Road-show Gala Dinner, in celebration of our country being the host of the fifth *BRICS* Summit. We are quite excited because we know that the admission of South Africa to the *BRIC* bloc has resulted into the *BRICS* bloc.

As you are aware, one brick (*BRIC*) will never complete a house, but bricks (*BRICS*), will definitely complete it. What is the morale of the story? The *BRIC* bloc was never complete without South Africa. As South Africa, we are therefore a force to be reckoned with, hence we have now completed the missing puzzle in order to drive the economies of these five (5) emerging economies. ***Bosso ke Mang? It is South Africa for having completed the puzzle!***

Through our membership in *BRICS*, which is focusing on rectifying the imbalance in the global economy and institutions of governance, we are optimistic that we will eventually be able to deal with the triple challenges of **unemployment, poverty and inequality**, which continues to be-devil our emerging economy.

As we celebrate Human Rights Day on Thursday, let us remember all those women who have died under the hand of those uncaring men; and those who continue to be raped and abused. We must all stand up and be counted as being pioneers of equal human rights and dignity.

In the words of Alan Greenspan, former Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and I quote:

“I have found no greater satisfaction than achieving success through honest dealing and strict adherence to the view that, for you to gain, those you deal with should gain as well.”

Happy Human Rights Day for Thursday!

Let's give ourselves a round of applause, to acknowledge the partnership which we are strengthening here this evening.

Thank you for coming, drive safe back home, Good Night!

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