

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!

A Pioneering Spirit



Before we get deeper into the business of this evening, we need to feel welcomed. In the African culture, you need to be welcome by the host – the owner of the area

# 2. Introduction of the Mbombela Executive Mayor (Welcome Remarks)

This lady of note and cadre of our movement, started working at a tender age of 13, and was a breadwinner for the family. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies from the University of the Western Cape, which was one of her most cherished dreams. She also has a Masters degree in Project Management.

She gained her first experience in monitoring and evaluation of government projects and programmes at the Mpumalanga Department of Health from 1994-1997, and further polished her exceptional people skills in dealing with HIV/AIDs issues in the same Department.

An important step in her evolution as a person and leader came when she was assigned to work with the South African Police Service to develop the provincial crime prevention framework.

She previously served as the Mayor of the Greater Malelane (from 1995-1996); and in 2011, she was appointed the Executive Mayor of the Mbombela Local Municipality – the portfolio she still occupies to-date.

I now have the pleasure to introduce a person who will welcome us in her area of jurisdiction. She is the first citizen of the Mbombela Municipality. Let's put our hands together and welcome Councillor Cathy Dlamini.



Wa thinta abafazi, wathint'imbokodo!



#### 3. Cultural Interlude

Honourable Premier; Ladies and Gentlemen;

In the words of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Guatemalan Indigenous Rights Activist, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, and I quote:

"Peace cannot exist without justice, justice cannot exist without fairness, fairness cannot exist without development, development cannot exist without democracy, democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples."

In response to this argument, I have the pleasure to present to you, to show
us how it is still done in Mpumalanga.
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4. Starters served
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## 5. Introduction of the Premier of Mpumalanga (Remarks)

Ladies and gentlemen;

It is pleasure to introduce the first citizen of the Province of Mpumalanga – a season selfless cadre and stalwart of our liberation movement, the African National Congress. Born in Brondal at Mathafeni in Mbombela, he obtained a Teachers Certificate from Mngwenya College of Education in 1985. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Africa. His teaching career spans from 1986 until 1993 during which he was a Principal at Lungisani High School.





He is a born leader, having been amongst others, the Secretary of the Azanian Students Organisation (1984-1985); Chairperson of the National Education Union of South Africa (1986-1988); Chairperson of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (1988-1991); Regional Chairperson of the ANC (1994-1998); Member of the ANC Provincial Executive Committee since 1998; Deputy Chairperson of the ANC in the province in 2005; and Leader of government business in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature in 2007.

He is the member of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature since 1994. His leadership in the Executive spans as far back as 1994 when he was the first MEC for Education following the dawn of democracy in South Africa (until 1998); and subsequently served as MEC for Housing (from 1999 to 2001); MEC for Roads and Transport (from 2007 to 2008); and MEC for Agriculture and Land Administration (from 2008 to 2009).

He is the current Chairperson of the ANC in Mpumalanga since 2008, and serving the second term after being re-elected in 2012. He is currently an ex-officio member of the ANC National Executive Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, may we all rise and put our hands together in welcoming our selfless leader, the Honourable Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr David Dabede Mabuza. Mister Premier...

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# 6. Introduction of the Minister of Public Enterprises (Keynote Speech)

Honourable Premier, ladies and gentlemen;

To tell us why we gathered here this evening, and more importantly, why is the BRICS bloc significant to South Africa, I have the honour to introduce to you the son of a Reverend from Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal; a seasoned cadre who grew within the ranks of the African National Congress Youth League. He became active in various students and youth organisations, such as Congress of South African Students (*COSAS*), the South African Youth Congress (*SAYCO*), the South African Student Congress (*SASCO*) and Young Christian Students (*YCS*) during the period 1985 to 1993.





He joined the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party (*SACP*) and the ANC Youth League in 1990, and was one of the founding members of the Education Students Society at the erstwhile University of Durban-Westville (*UDW*), which is today known as the University of KwaZulu-Natal (*UKZN*). In 1993, he became the Chairperson of *SASCO* at the same university.

In 1996, he was elected as the President of the ANC Youth League, and became the only President in the history of the ANCYL to be elected three consecutive terms in office (1996, 1998 and 2001).

In 2004 he was re-elected to Parliament and subsequently appointed the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs until October 2010.

He is currently a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and a member the ANC NEC Sub-committee on Economic Transformation.

He holds a Bachelor of Pedagogics in Education and a Master of Arts Degree in Social Policy, both from UDW.

Ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together and welcome, the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Malusi Knowledge Nkanyezi Gigaba.

Mr	Minister
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7.	Cultural Interlude





#### 8. Main meal and dessert served

As we about to have our meal, I just want to share with you some inspirational thoughts which you can ponder on when you enjoy your meal.

Tom Bodett asks: "What is the difference between school and life?"

He responds: "In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."

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# Introduction of the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Vote of thanks)

Ladies and gentlemen;

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When you have invited people to come and share the little you can offer, it is in our tradition that before your guests departs, that you should thank them for having taken their time off their busy schedule, to join you. To give us the Vote of Thanks, I have the honour to introduce a woman of stature – *Wa thinta abafazi, wathint'imbokodo!* 

She is a teacher by profession, and holds amongst others, a Professional Teacher's Certificate; Education Management Diploma; Diploma in Science; Further Diploma in Remedial Education; Master of Business Administration degree; Bachelor of Education degree in Educational Psychology from the North West University (formerly Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education); and Bachelor of Arts degree.

She thought at many schools in the Bushbuckridge area since 1977, and was a Principal of the Ludlow Primary School from 1993 until 2005.





She was previously member of the Limpopo ANC Women's League (1998-2000); a member of the Bushbuckridge ANC Women's League (1999-2001); and Regional Executive Committee member of the ANC Bohlabela Region in the Bushbuckridge municipality (2001-2008).

She also served as ANC Ward Councillor and Member of the Mayoral Committee in the Bushbuckridge Municipality (from 2000-2005); Chief Whip of the Majority Party in the Mpumalanga Legislature (2005-2009); Chairperson of the Mpumalanga Legislature Women's Caucus (2009 to February 2013); and Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature (2009-February 2013).

She is currently the Deputy Secretary of the ANC in the Province (since 2012); a member of the ANC Women's League NEC (since 2008); a member of the ANC Provincial Executive Committee (since 2008), and a Member of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature since 2005.

Let's put our hands together and welcome, the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, Mrs Violet Sizani Siwela.

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## 10. Closure

As we close, South Africa's prosperity, and in particular Mpumalanga's, depends on the strength of our partnership. By working together, we can do more to use the economic **bricks** (**b-r-i-c-k-s**) of *BRICS* (*B-R-I-C-S*). Let us join hands and strive to achieve the objective of BRICS to promote **peace**, **security**, **development and co-operation**. Our quest should be to contribute significantly to the **development of humanity and establishing a more equitable and fair world**.





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 bedevil 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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