

# 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 Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Bulelani Magwanishe;
- 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 humbled by the recognition to complete the missing link in order to drive the economies of these five (5) emerging economies.

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 Ehlanzeni District Municipality Executive Mayor (Welcome Remarks)**

I present to you the first lady of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

A compassionate Mother whose umbilical cord can be traced along the Makhonjwa Mountain range in Barberton with rock formations dating back 3.5 billion years.

As you would know, the Makhonjwa mountain range in Barberton is currently vying for World Heritage Status, scientists have recorded fossils in this area that record the earliest form of life on the planet from as far back as 3.5 billion years and it should also be kept in mind that the first stock exchange in South Africa was hosted in Barberton.

We want to confirm it to you Madam Executive Mayor that the International Heritage Route will have been incomplete without mention of the place of your birth.

The first lady holds a Diploma in Credit Management and Qualifications in Management and Development Municipal Finance.

She has participated in Community Based Organisations and Mass Democratic Movement Structures. As part of her community development contribution she is the founder member of a Women's Social Club called Yinhle Lentfo with 49 branches across the Province.

She served the ANC and its Women’s League in branch, Regional and Provincial Executive Committees.

Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome the Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Cllr Letta Ntombi Shongwe.



### 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, and 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 a cultural group, to show us how it is still done in Mpumalanga. I am sure you have worked up an appetite, so please do enjoy the starters which will now be served.



#### **4. Starters served**



#### **5. Introduction of the Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises (Keynote Speech)**

Ladies and gentlemen;

Can I invite your indulgence, as I present to you one of our own, sons of the Soil with very rich academic and political credentials.

He holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), a Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence and a certificate in Strategic Leadership.

He was a member of the governance committee in Ekurhuleni Region in 2005 and served as a member of various committees and ad-hoc committees during the period 1999 to 2004.

He also served as Whip in various Committees and as Cluster Whip for Justice and Constitutional Development; Defence; Home Affairs; Foreign Affairs; Safety and Security; Correctional

Services and Intelligence, and also as Deputy Chief Whip of the ruling party in the National Assembly until his re-deployment in 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Bulelani Gratitude Magwanishe.



## 6. Cultural Interlude



## 7. Main meal and dessert served

As we are 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.

**“What is the difference between school and life?”**

**According to Mr Tom Bodett, an American Author “In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.”**

*Bon appétit!*



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

Ladies and gentlemen;

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!*

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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## 9. 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 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!

**#END#**