

**ADDRESS BY THE LIMPOPO MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AZWINNDINI JEREMIAH DINGAAN NDOU ON THE OCCASION TO MARK THE PROVINCIAL KAMOSO AWARDS AT THE ST. MARCO HALL, POLOKWANE ON THE 06<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014.**

Thank you Programme Director;

Members of the executive council;

Members of the provincial Legislature;

Executive mayors and mayors;

Speakers and Chiefs Whip of municipalities;

Councillors present;

Heads of Department and the staff members;

Municipal managers and other municipal officials;

Invited guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen.

This event takes place a week before the department holds its Excellence Awards on the night when we will be recognizing the good performance by the employees of this department. Tonight we are looking forward to rewarding self-motivation, high morale and self-esteem by individuals through public bodies and non-state organizations to a level of sustaining service excellence for the benefit of the citizens of this province.

As we recognize good and best performing units, we do that with a word of gratitude to the hard work that all employees demonstrated through-out the year. To the entire staff of the department, let us continue to lead by example by treating everyone with respect and always seek collaboration from all team members we work with. This will lead to the

development of trust amongst us which is critical to the well-being of any organization. Let us cherish values such as discipline, loyalty and diligence to our work.

The Kamoso Awards were launched in 2007 by the national Department of Public Works with the aim of rewarding public bodies and non-state organizations for excelling in terms of EPWP. This year's awards are significant as they take place in a year that our country celebrates 20 years of freedom and democracy.

The Kamoso Awards play a very important role as they aim to mobilize implementers of the EPWP programmes to increase their efforts in making a socio economic impact among communities and individual EPWP beneficiaries.

Since its implementation, EPWP, which is intended to reduce poverty and unemployment through the provision of work opportunities, has created over 3 million work opportunities towards achieving the target of 4.5 million.

Our effort to transform the government continues to occupy our central focus. As the coalface of service delivery, we are moving ahead to construct a capable responsive government and to attack poverty and economic marginalization in order to restore public confidence.

We need to leave this event with a clear understanding of what we collectively, and individually, need to do to fulfill our people's aspirations, and to deliver the undertaking we have made, as part of government, to ensure a better life for all our people.

I firmly believe, once more, that the recently held EPWP Phase iii Summit has accorded us a viable opportunity and enabling environment for clinical analysis and assessment of our performance over the years. It also provided us with a clear-cut vision and formidable way-forward for the years to come.

As we leave here tonight we must be indispensable as a collective school of shared learning, a common compass and a platform of mutual accountability.

In our municipalities we must be steadfast and strive towards contributing to the reduction of unemployment especially amongst the youth, women and people with

disabilities. We can only do this if we become fair in everything that we do, for unemployment has no boundaries, it affects everyone, irrespective of their background.

What is of utmost importance, and that will assist us in averting the challenges that we experienced in the previous two phases, is to increase community participation. We can achieve this through being more visible as leaders in this programme and by allowing ownership especially by the poor.

As the custodian of EPWP we must be worried that we are not doing well in the creation of employment in this regard. According to findings deducted during the strategic planning session, we are decreasing as the department in terms of creating EPWP jobs. Most worrying is that people with disabilities are the least beneficiaries.

In the coming five years we must ensure that we reverse this trend and become the employer of choice as far as EPWP job creation is concerned.

Let us go out there and raise awareness amongst EPWP staff and equip them to be the ambassadors of phase iii whose aim is provide work opportunities and income support to the poor, people with disabilities, child headed households and the unemployed.

We must also engage all the stakeholders on the progress made for the smooth and well-coordinated implementation, but also commit to learn from the past mistakes.

We cannot play ignorance and think that this world is blind. With the added responsibility of roads, it is with time and circumstance that the going for the department will be tough and tougher as time goes by.

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure recognize Roads Infrastructure as an important socio-economic driver. It goes without any shadow of doubt that roads have arguably proved to be the economic and social fabric that gives the province a significant competitive advantage. This is evidenced with the smooth movement of goods and commuters alike throughout the province.

Roads are key contributors to our province's competitiveness, and also are the engines to the country's economic growth and social development. Roads contribute to poverty

alleviation by both providing transport services to move goods and people, and by providing rural populations with access to markets and social facilities. Road Infrastructure development can help to give communities access to facilities such as schools, hospitals, shopping malls, water, housing, etc. To emphasize, infrastructure delivery underpins the very strength of a country's competitive performance and contributes to the welfare and striving for continuous improvement in quality of life of the people by the provision of social support structures.

In order to address the main road transport infrastructure challenges that the province faces, we need on the one hand to redress the imbalances that exist between upgrading (from gravel to tar) and on the other, preserve the existing surfaced network.

This machinery, this collective, should be readily available to meet all these upcoming challenges. In our interaction with the citizens of this province in service delivery initiatives, together with our stakeholders and partners, we should understand our role and play the ball by its rules.

Programme Director,

Tonight is not about long speeches, but an event about the celebration of human spirit and excellence displayed in the public space. It is an important day for all of us, more especially teams that are participating in the Provincial Awards. We are looking forward to the winners of the tonight, more so that it is our pride to honor best teams in the department.

In conclusion I call upon all executive mayors and mayors, with their technical managers to commit themselves to participate actively in the 3rd phase of EPWP so that they ensure that implementation is done in the right way.

I want to reiterate my word of gratitude to all employees who have shown dedication and commitment to the work that they have been doing since the implementation of EPWP.

It is also necessary to recognize the role played by the leadership in the department who will always need your support to steer this ship towards the right direction, as we move this department towards “Operation Clean Audit”.

Thank you.