

SPEECH BY LIMPOPO MEC RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE MEETING WITH DEPARTMENTAL STAFF AT THE WATERBERG DISTRICT OFFICE ON TUESDAY 05TH AUGUST 2014.

THANK YOU

Senior Management in the district

Entire staff members

Ladies and gentlemen

Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi masiari, Good Morning

Two weeks ago we had the department's strategic planning session in Bela Bela where the department's think tank met to plan the way forward for this newly established Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. During that two day sitting, I said that session should not be another talk shop whose resolutions would not be implemented, for we are a department in desperate need of resurrection after years of negative audit opinions. We are a department that is knocking on the intensive care unit's door. We must all rise to the occasion and rescue it from further decline downstream.

I come here today after having been to Sekhukhune, Capricorn and Vhembe to meet your colleagues in those district offices, and I must be honest that these visits have been rewarding and fulfilling for me as the Member of the Executive Council responsible for this newly configured Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. These changes were made to improve on service delivery in line with the developmental

approaches that the ruling party set itself to achieve in the next five years. As government we saw it befitting to be in line with the current developments for faster services to our people who can wait no longer for services

I am here to stress that as government employees we must change the way we perform our work, by showing commitment and dedication to our work so that the people we are employed to serve are taken care of. There has to be a paradigm shift in the way we approach our work so that you help government to achieve its goal of delivering a better life for all. It cannot be business as usual when there are some among our people who are still trapped in the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment while we who are given the responsibility to deliver fail in our duties. We have to do things differently and change the lives of our people for the better.

I told those I met before you that they must not work to impress me because as a politician I might be gone tomorrow. You must work to impress yourselves so that when the knock off time comes, you can be able to look back at your day and say I did something to better the lives of the people of Limpopo.

Our department has Infrastructure added as one of the functions, and this calls for men and women who will be able to implement big projects that will take the economy of this province to another trajectory. This is the call that we must all embrace and dedicate ourselves to the work that lies ahead as we will be rolling out huge infrastructure built projects for our

province and her people. We have to look at our targets and work towards achieving them.

Corruption and fraud dented the image of this once beautiful province. There are people who join government with the aim of stealing and looting from the state coffers and not caring about services to our people. This has in recent past nearly collapsed our province until the national government intervened and saved you the public servant from not being paid your monthly salaries. We are called corruption kingpins because of those elements whose intention is to serve their own selfish interests at the expense of the poor.

Sitting here we are the ones who can return this province to its former glory. We must say enough is enough with corruption and expose those elements who are hell bent on further destroying of what is left of this province. People must not join government to be rich, but to offer themselves to serve humanity. The intervention team that was sent to rescue our government from further collapse has returned to Pretoria, and the ball is our court to ensure that we sustain their job well done.

There are loyal people who work tirelessly to render services, but the corrupt ones overshadow their good work. These loyal public servants must be celebrated for in them the people of Limpopo have hope for a better future.

Our stand point on fraud and corruption is clear. We have committed ourselves to deal with corruption harshly. We will have no option but to fire those found with their hands in government coffers and hand them to law enforcement agencies for further criminal charges. This is the taken and

adopted by the current administration that fraud and corruption in government should be crushed and shown the red card whenever it shows up.

I am here to call on you to join hands with me and work together to move this department and Limpopo forward. It is in our hands that service delivery machinery can move with speed to turn the living conditions of the people of Limpopo around. Let us move away from the conventional way of doing things and become creative and innovative in everything we do for us to return this department to what it used to be.

Ke a Leboga, Thank you

Thank you