

**THE ADDRESS BY THE ACTING PREMIER OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE, MR AJD NDOU,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2018 GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS AS HELD AT THE RANCH  
HOTEL, POLOKWANE, ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 18:00**

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Director of Ceremonies

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Mr. John Mpe

Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Mme Thembi Nkadimeng

Head of Department, Mme Ngaka Dumalisile

Management and staff of the Department

Esteemed Guests

Members of the media

Govan Mbeki was a communist. He was a scholar and teacher for human rights. He lived his life for us to be free. He sacrificed his youth for Africa to be free from slavery, colonialism, disease, under development, poverty, inequality and other social ills. He was a Robben Islander, Isithwalandwe. The people's hero. Many shall be called, but few will be chosen. Indeed in him we know that freedom was not free.

Tonight, under the global banner for peace and prosperity as engraved in our hearts and minds by two icons of the struggle President Nelson Mandela and Mme Albertina Sisulu, we stand out as the Thuma Mina brigades, the volunteers of hope for a better life, to say join our hands in the promotion of the social equity and progress. Tonight we are writing new chapters in our lives as we agree indeed, that we write our own history through our deeds.

Through the Department of Co-Operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs we are able to respond to the global stature of Oom Gov in this centenary celebration of President Nelson Mandela and Mme Albertina Sisulu.

In Oom Gov we are able to positively respond to the creation of a virtuous cycle of growth and development which teaches, through the National Plan, that we have to attack the blight of poverty and exclusion, and nurture economic growth at the same time;

Indeed, through Oom Gov we are able to create a virtuous cycle of expanding opportunities, building capabilities, reducing poverty, involving communities in their own development, all leading to rising living standards.

We must remember that, such virtuous cycle requires agreement across society about the contribution and sacrifices of all sectors and interests. This translate into greater confidence and greater field of opportunities for individuals and the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, on occasion like this, we should remind ourselves that opportunities, growth and development, and reducing poverty and inequality, are the core elements of the virtuous cycle, which needs a strong leadership throughout society, national consensus, social cohesion and a capable state are its enablers.

What unites us tonight, is the Govan Mbeki Awards, which seeks to promote and encourage a culture of excellence amongst Human Settlements sector stakeholders.

It is the Govan Mbeki Awards that are to create a positive mindset in the public that government is delivering quality human settlements.

Indeed it is the Govan Mbeki Awards that motivates to restore the dignity of the disadvantaged South Africans.

These awards intend to showcase the work accomplished by the Department with special emphasis on the departmental programmes. It is also an initiative to promote best practices in the departmental delivery core mandate.

With these Awards we are able to motivate all stakeholders in the Human Settlements space to harness the human and other resources in accelerating human settlements delivery to improve the lives of our poverty stricken people by building sustainable human settlements.

I must commend all of you who have positively responded to the call to improve on the quality of living for our people. Your contribution is well documented and appreciated.

The task of delivering 6 965 housing units, 4 629 service sites and 7 685 title deeds as per the Business Plans is healthier and this means our people will now have a

roof above their heads from a caring government. Through these progressive injections of hope into our people, we proudly say that through the teachings of Oom Gov, we are able to push back the frontiers of poverty and inequality.

The delivery of these services by the Department means that our infrastructure has to yield positive results for human settlements. Human Settlements is about housing, water, sanitation, roads, parks and etc. So in our delivery plans we have to ensure that we are part of the solution to build a sustainable human settlements for our people.

Our task is clear we must increase the urban population density, while improving the liveability of cities by providing parks and other open spaces and ensuring safety. Again we have to create jobs and investment towards dense townships that are on the margins of cities. Building new settlements far from places of work is not our duty and it is discouraged, that is why we have to find expression in the planning and zoning regulations responsive to government policy. All these we are doing them together as a family of Human Settlements sector.

We must remember that the strategic goal of the country is to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa, which is achievable through our deeds within the Human Settlements. These Human settlements are about transforming and uniting a country. That is what we learnt through Oom Gov, whom tonight through his teachings we are witnessing the shining examples within the build environment being appreciated and recognized.

We are duty bound to reduce poverty and inequality by broadening opportunity through economic inclusion, education and skills, and specific redress measures. Indeed tonight we are deepening the appreciation of the responsibilities and obligations that citizens have towards one another.

Tonight is about the Contractor. Indeed, many were called but few were chosen. But the underlying factor is that all have positively responded to the key ingredients for the success of the challenges we faced as a sector. These ingredients for the success include amongst others; growth, investment and employment, collaboration between the private and public sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen, our people can see it, they are living it. They appreciate our government for providing human settlements for them. Your contribution to this, can be witnessed in the eyes of the children. And this means there is a worthy future for the country, because all of you have put your hands on the deck as part of the Thuma Mina in improving the lives of our people.

On behalf of the provincial government, we wish you all the best for tonight.

I thank you.

