

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
FOR THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MS. NGAKA DUMALISILE
DURING THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE
CHARLOTTE MDANISI ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Programme Director;

Bereaved Family of Mdanisi;

Friends and community members from far and wide;

CoGHSTA Staff Members, the Executive management and
SMS;

Colleagues from various departments, Municipalities, SALGA
and all other Agencies

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to pass my message of condolences on behalf of the
Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements
and Traditional Affairs to the bereaved family of our late
colleague and friend to many, Charlotte Tshikani Mdanisi.

Charlotte Tshikani Mdanisi left us at the crucial time when our department is working hard to wrap up the 2014-2019 term of our government in our quest realise our vision of Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements.

Ms Mdanisi was playing an important towards the realisation of this vision which through its implementation will see us eradicating housing poverty from the face of our society.

Charlotte Tshikani Mdanisi joined Coghsta on the 1st of January 2015 coming from the Planning Section of the Office of the Premier. She joined the department as a Chief Director: Housing Subsidy Administration and Property Management within our Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements Branch. Her key responsibilities amongst others were mainly management of Housing Beneficiaries and Properties. She later moved to Development and Planning within the Cogta Branch of the department until she met her death. As Chief Director: Development and Planning, Charlotte was responsible for the following:

- Provincial Spatial Planning and Land Use Management;
- Municipal Integrated Planning; and
- Local Economic Development

Tracing back from her first date of appointment with the public service in 1985 as the social worker at Evuxakeni Hospital, Charlotte has an uninterrupted service of 33 years.

As the MEC said on Wednesday, as the department we were still expecting her to offer her experience that she gained throughout these years. Her experience and technical expertise were in deed needed most in this period of our government.

With her wealth of experience of the public service and her academic achievements, we know that had she still be alive, she would spare no energy in ensuring that the department achieves the mandate set out to realise.

Since her early days in the provincial administration, Charlotte Mdanisi had always put the interest of the department she worked for at heart and she served with high level of discipline,

dedication and determination. She was a woman of unsurpassed courage and always eager to see things happen.

She executed her responsibilities perfectly and would not rest until she had completed a task or project bestowed to her.

Charlotte was never a burden to the department. She was one of those rare breeds of our foot soldiers in the army of our department who was not afraid to take on task others would deem difficult or impossible.

Charlotte was a visionary. She pulled herself by the bootstraps by deciding against all odds to empower herself academically in preparation of building a new and free country post 1994. She knew that one day the democratic South Africa would need servant leaders who are educationally equipped hence she graduated with the B A Degree in Social Work at the then University of the North (currently University of Limpopo) studying all the way to the top, and graduating with Masters of Commerce in Leadership Studies from the University of Kwa Zulu Natal. Her thesis was titled "Policy, Planning and

Provision: A Case Study of Water in the Limpopo Province”.

The purpose of her case study was to explore and understand how policies and legislative frameworks impact on the planning for water provision in rural areas, and in particular, the Makosha Village in the Mopani District of Limpopo Province.

Charlotte also contributed immensely to the development of the people of her community by donating wheel chairs to Non-Governmental Organisation, Centenary House, following the passing on of her daughter and mother who both used wheel chairs as a means of mobility during their life time.

Despite losing both, she never looked down and blamed death for robbing her of her loved ones. She continued to live happily with her family and also serve her community as if her life depended on it. She has in deed become a representation of a special cadre of the public servant we rarely find in our government.

Charlotte ran her race and fought a brave and good fight. It is up to us to take the baton and continue with the struggle and

war against poverty, inequality and unemployment. She set an example for us and the coming generations to follow.

As we gathered here to celebrate a life well lived, I would like to make a call to the colleagues in the department and government as a whole to take a leaf out of Charlotte's book and commit ourselves to the ideals that she stood for. Surely, this would be the greatest honour we would have done to her.

To the Mdanisi Family, thank you for having allowed us a time and space to have spent with this dearest colleague of us. She will be dearly missed by all of us who in deed had an opportunity to share most of her time with.

Our sincere condolences go to you, friends and relatives.

As we leave here we must at all material times remember the contribution she made towards the development of humanity.

May your soul, rest in peace.

Thank you.