

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MR AZWINNDINI JERRY DINGAAN NDOU DURING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE CHARLOTTE MDANISI**

Programme Director;

Bereaved Family of Mdanisi;

Head of Department, Ms Ngaka Dumalisile;

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 on behalf of the entire staff of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, pass the message of condolences 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 as the department and the province in general are preparing for the roll out of the Special Economic Zone Programme, which the Premier of our province, Chupu Mathabatha has been successfully championing and leading. Ms Mdanisi was playing an important role in this programme which through its implementation will see thousands of our youths gaining employment and much needed skills for the success of our economy.

Charlotte Tshikani Mdanisi joined the public service in 1985 as the social worker at Evuxakeni Hospital. She has an uninterrupted of 33 years in the public service of which five years was spent with CoGHSTA where at the time of her passing on, was the Chief Director responsible for Development Planning.

We were still expecting her to offer her experience that she gained throughout the years serving the provincial government

to help galvanise support especially during this time when our country is in need of her experience and technical expertise.

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 and the province achieve the mandate set out to realise.

Since her early days in the provincial administration, Charlotte Mdanisi had always put the interest of the government at heart and she served with utmost discipline, dedication and determination. Her selfless commitment to serve our government remains unmatched ahead of those of herself. She was always eager to see things happen and would not rest until she had completed a project.

She executed the responsibilities bestowed on her perfectly to an extent that she would use her resources without any thought of benefit, unlike some of us today who join the public service not to serve the people, but to only take the salary home.

Charlotte was one of those rare breeds of our foot soldiers in the army of our provincial administration who was not afraid to take on task others would deem difficult or impossible, and this is proven by many positions she occupied in her 33 years of unbroken service to the people of this province.

She pulled herself by the bootstraps by deciding against all odds to empower herself academically when some of us had our eyes firmly on positions within the state.

Because she knew that one day the democratic South Africa would need servant leaders who are educationally equipped, Charlotte 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.

As we gathered here to celebrate a life well lived, we make a call to her colleagues here in CoGHSTA and the provincial government in its entirety, especially those joining government now going forward to take a leaf out of Charlotte's book and use CoGHSTA as the vehicle for the socio economic

emancipation and development of our people, and not as the platform to accumulate resources for our own selves.

Colleagues, it is true that we shall never see Charlotte again, but if we commit ourselves to the ideals that she stood for. Surely she would smile in heaven, knowing fully well that the CoGHSTA's development planning branch is in capable hands.

Charlotte ran her race and fought a brave 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.

Our sincere condolences go to her Family, Colleagues and Friends. She will be dearly missed by all of us who had an opportunity to share moments with her.

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

***Fare thee well dearest Charlotte, a committed and selfless servant of our people to the end.***

***May your soul rest in peace.***

Thank you.