

**SPEECH FOR THE HANDING OVER OF THE PRIZES TO WINNING SMMEs HELD
AT THE IEC HALL OF ANDFONTEIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THURSDAY 12
MARCH 2009**

MEMBERS OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

ALL COUNCILLOR

OUR SMMEs

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

IT IS BOTH AN HONOUR AND A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU ALL IN ONE MANY SUCCEFUL OCCASIONS SPEARHEADED BY THE MUNICIPALITY TO UPLIFT THE LIVES OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN AS PROMISED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

BEFORE I START TO ELABORATE ON THE OBJECTIVE OF TODAY'S PROGRAM, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU THROUGH THE DIFFICULT PATH THAT OUR PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, THROUGH OUR MOVEMENT CHOSE WITHOUT BEING OBLIGATED BY ANYONE, TO RATHER ROT IN JAIL AND DIE IN THE LAND OF OTHER NATIONS TO FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.

THIS PATH, THAT OUR DITRACTORS ARE TRYING TO DELIBERATELY ERASE FROM OUR HISTORY. SO THAT OUR CHILDREN DO NOT FULLY APPRECIATE THE JOURNEY THAT BROUGHT US WHERE WE ARE TODAY. SO THAT OUR HISTORY, THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THOSE BEFORE US AND OUR HERITAGE ARE STOLEN BY THE ROOKIES THAT YESTERDAY WANTED TO STEAL OUR NAME, TODAY THEY ATTEMPTED CLAIMING OUR ICON AND TOMORROW THEY WILL SURE WANT TO ROB OUR GAINS.

THIS JOURNEY BEGAN LONG BEFORE ALL OF US WHO ARE HERE TODAY WERE EVEN BORN. OUR FOREBEARS LOOKED AT THE BLEAK FUTURE THAT A BLACK CHILD HAD AND SAW NO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OUT OF POVERTY FOR A BLACK CHILD AND TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

FRIENDS, WHETHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY THE APARTHEID SYSTEM SHARE OUR SENTIMENTS OR NOT, BUT THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE FOREFRONT OF THE APARTHEID CRUELTY KNOW THAT IT ROBBED OUR PEOPLE OF PRODUCTIVE PROPERTY, AND CREATED AN EDUCATION SYSTEM DESIGNED TO CONFINE US IN PERPETUAL STATUS OF POVERTY.

WE, THE GENERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE LIFE WERE LIVED SHORT AND WERE EXPOSED TO IMMEASURABLE CRUELTY JUST SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A DIGNIFIED LIFE. ARE CARRYING THE BATON FROM THESE REMARKABLE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OUR LAND.

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE WAR IS WON. WE HAVE WON THE BATTLE OF POLITICAL FREEDOM IN 1994, BUT TO COMPLETE THE CYCLE WE ARE FIGHTING TO WIN THE ENTIRE WAR OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND ECONOMIC IMBALANCES.

THE POLITICAL PARTY IN GOVERNMENT, HAS MORE THAN ANY OTHER FORMATION A RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS WAR IS WON. IT IS ON OUR SHOULDERS TO BRING THE FRUITS OF FREEDOM TO OUR PEOPLE AS STARTED BY THE ANCESTORS BEFORE US. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF PASSING THE BUCK TO ANYONE ELSE. WE HAVE THE CREDENTIALS, WE HAVE THE PLAN AND WE HAVE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND US.

WE HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO WIN AND WINNING WE SHALL, LEST WE DISAPPOINT THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL MAKE SURE THEY BRING US BACK TO GOVERN IN THE MAJORITY ON THE 22 APRIL 2009.

THE ANC, THROUGH THIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MOBILISE OUR COMMUNITIES IN GENERAL, AND TARGETED GROUPS LIKE THE YOUTH, WOMEN, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY TO CONTINUE RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND HELP TO ACHIEVE THE BROAD BASED DEVELOPMENT WE SEEK AS YOU HAVE DONE.

TODAY WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO REAP ONE OF THE FRUITS OF OUR FREEDOM. WE ARE HERE TO REMIND OTHER OF THE SPIRIT OF VUKUZENZELE. WE ARE HERE AS WELL TO SAY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE IS TRULY FOR THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES, AND WE STILL ARE AND WE WILL ALWAYS BE DRIVEN BY YOU, OUR PEOPLE.

NOW, ALLOW ME TO TALK ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR GATHERING TODAY. LAST YEAR IN SEPTEMBER WE HAVE HELD THE FIRST EVER SMME EXPO IN RANDFONTEIN. THE INTENTION OF THIS EXPO, AS **MR. MGENGO** HAS INDICATED WAS TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR SMMES IN GREATER RANDFONTEIN TO SHOW CASE, SELL, MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS/SERVICES, ACCESS INFORMATION AND NETWORK WITH EACH OTHER.

WE HAVE DONE THIS WITH THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS SET UP BY OUR GOVERNMENT, WHOSE SOUL MANDATE IS TO MAKE TRUE THE CALL BY OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE AND DOCTRINE WHICH IS THE FREEDOM CHARTER WHEN IT DECLARES THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

THESE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE THE SEDA, KHULA, GEP, DTI, UMSOBOMVU, CIPRO, SARS BUT THE LEADING CATALYST IN THIS EVENT WAS THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AS THEY PARTNERED WITH US THROUGH WHAT THEY CALLED 'ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME'.

I THANK ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE BEING OUR PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT BUT HOPE THAT THEY WILL HELP US

ATTRACT THE PRIVATE BUSINESSES TO NOT JUST BE PART OF THE EXPO, BUT TO PLAY A MEANING PROGRESSIVE ROLE IN THE CREATION OF THE BETTER LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

THIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD LONG AGO THAT SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ARE THE TOOLS WE WILL USE TO TAKE OUR PEOPLE OUT OF THE MISERY OF THE PAST. THEREFORE WE STAND TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER IN SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THESE ORGANISATIONS TO BE THE VEHICLE IN OUR SECONDARY STRUGGLE AND HOPING THAT WE WILL HELP TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND INSPIRE ENTREPRENEURS.

AS GOVERNMENT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MORE THAN BEFORE, BUSINESSES ALL ROUND IS FACING MORE CHALLENGES THAN USUAL, THIS IS DUE TO THE CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

OUR COUNTRY IS NOT TOTALLY IMMUNE FROM THIS CRISIS AND THE MOST VULNERABLE WILL BE THE SMME THAT WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD. ONCE MORE, WE PLEDGE TO STAND BY YOU IN THIS TRYING TIME BUT WE EXPECT YOU TO SWIM OUT OF IT UNSCATHED BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TIMES BEFORE.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE:

- LESEDI LA MOHLAKENG
- OOKELELA CREATIONX AND
- THE ZEBIA

THEY HAVE AFTER A RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCESS BECOME OUR FIRST EVER WINNERS OF THE BEST SMME'S IN RANDFONTEIN. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SHARE THE SECRETS OF YOUR SUCCESS WITH THE OTHER ASPIRING BUSINESS PEOPLE. BECAUSE REMEMBER, YOUR SUCCESS DOES NOT JUST BELONG TO YOU, IT BELONG TO THE COMMUNITY.

TO THOSE WHO DID NOT WIN THIS TIME. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURAGE AND DEDICATION TO OUR CAUSE. KUKHO INTETHO ETHI 'IVILI LIYAJIKELEZA'. IT MIGHT NOT BE YOU TODAY, BUT WITH ALL THINGS ROUND, THEY TURN LIKE THE WHEEL AND IF YOU PULL HARD ENOUGH, YOUR TURN WILL COME. IN OTHER WORDS, RE TSHWANETSE ITSE GORE 'NKO YA KGOMO MOGALA TSHWARA THATA E SE RE GO UTLWA SEBODU WA KGAOGA'

TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ENTER LAST YEAR, YOU MUST KNOW THAT NO CONDITION IS PERMANENT. WHATEVER SITUATIONS THAT HAVE LED YOU TO BE UNABLE TO BE PART OF THIS GREAT DEVELOPMENT, IT WILL ALSO CHANGE.

TO ALL OUR ASPIRING ENTERPRENUERS, LIKE THE MEN AND WOMEN I SPOKE ABOUT EARLIER, WHO SAW NOTHING OF IMPROSONEMENT AND DEATH FOR THE SAKE OF A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE, YOU TOO WILL BE COUNTED AMONG THE HEROES AND HEROINES OF OUR LIFETIME WHO HAVE SWAM OPPOSITE THE WAVE TO BRING BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

IN CLOSING, AS THE PARTY IN GOVERNMENT WE SAY 'SISONKE, SINGENZA NGCONO'. WE ARE COMMITTED TO SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT BETWEEN ALL SOUTH AFRICANS TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE MASTER PLAN, THAT OF WINNING THE WAR ON POVERTY ELIMINATION. IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO WITHSTAND AND ENSURE THAT THE POOR AND THE MOST VULNERABLE ARE PROTECTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

NGALO MAZWI NGITHI 'VIVA TO INKQUBELA PHAMBILI' AND 'VIVA TO THE BETTER LIFE FOR ALL'

MODIMO A HLONOLOFATSE.