

# Department of Community Safety and Transport Management

## MEC's SPEAKING NOTES

29TH APRIL 2017

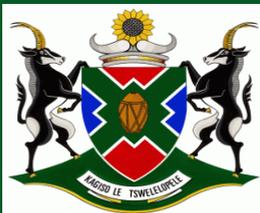
**NORTHWEST PROVINCE:**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

**P/Bag X 19**

**Mmabatho 2735**

Third Floor, Tirelo Building  
AlbertLuthuliDrive  
Mafikeng,2745  
P/Bag X 19 Mmabatho 2735  
Tel:+27(18)2008003/8020



**“Together Moving Bokone Bophirima Province Forward”**

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR HONOURABLE DR MOKGANTSHANG  
MOTLHABANE, MEC AND SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY  
PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON AT THE GRADUATION CELEBRATION FOR  
CDE KEBAONE MOKATE, A LEADER OF THE SACP YOUNG COMMUNIST  
LEAGUES, AFTER OBTAINING A MASTERS DEGREE**

**HELD AT MAHIKENG, NOOITGEDACHT VILLAGE**

**ON THE 29TH APRIL 2017 FROM 11H00**

**1. OBSERVING PROTOCOL**

- Programme Director,
- The Mokate family
- Our Graduate, Kebaabetswe
- Fellow Esteemed Graduates present
- Friends and close acquaintances
- Fellow workers and colleagues
- Comrades and compatriots
- Ladies and Gentlemen

## INTRODUCTION

All of us who have gathered here today, have one common factor that brought us together here. We have all been invited to be part of a great occasion.

A celebration in respect of an outstanding achievement attained by our sister, aunt, comrade, colleague and a proud South African.

I surely feel greatly honoured not to only be part of this great occasion but to speak and share thoughts and views with all celebrants in this momentous period. I am invited here not as an academic myself and not as a representative of the provincial government in Bokone Bophirima.

But am particularly deployed here to speak in my capacity as the Provincial Chairperson of the South African Communist Party in the Moses Kotane Province, Bokone Bophirima.

## BACKGROUND

Allow me to commence by first and foremost congratulating our graduate on this significant achievement. A Masters Degree in simple terms is Grade 18, obtained after one has completed, 12 years of schooling. Followed by a 3 or four years of college or university qualification, then an honours degrees.

After which you add another two years to it to obtain this Masters degree. It is six or seven minimum matriculation, a daunting task.

Permit me Program Director;

To borrow the words of our former President His Excellency Thabo Mbeki to illustrate the strain and debilitation one goes through. Mbeki said in his inaugural speech as the President of the Republic of South Africa using comrades marathon as a metaphor ***“those who complete the course will do so because they do not as fatigue sets in convince themselves that the road ahead is too long, the incline too steep, the lonely impossible to bear and the price itself its of doubtful value”***

Obtaining a Masters degree does not come easy especially when you do not have money, or time due to work and family commitments. It's worse when you are a political animal, an activist who is a leader and a communist. Actually when you have accomplished this achievement all of us often asks how did you do it. We create doubts, conspiracies and begin theories that often cast aspersions about your achievement. We find it unbelievable and just hope one day a scandal will erupt to reverse your achievement.

We must, as we are gathered here be inspired by this exemplary achievement. We must celebrate this remarkable success. We must remember that education in South Africa especially when you are an

African first and worst when you are a black person does not come easy nor cheaply.

We must all be mindful that it takes a whole lot of dedication, sacrifice, commitment and firm conviction in order to complete what you set yourself out to do.

Kebaabetswe, my comrade, your sacrifices, sweat, sleepless nights are worth celebrating today. This is an inspiration to all youth and women in particular that Education and studies are way to go.

At some point in time we were told that the youth of today is a lost generation but today it is exciting and encouraging to correct that notion and prove that that the youth of today can and are focused.

Kebaabetswe is a living testimony that continue to assure us that the future of this country is bright. That the future will soon be in the capable hands of young men and women. Young women with relevant qualifications and highest levels of education. Qualifications that will assist our country to propel forward.

Young men and women must always understand the dictum that, **the future belongs to those who prepare for it**. Malcolm X puts its more succinctly and says "**Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today**".

Cde Kebaabetswe was taught that;

Captain Thomas Sankara led Burkina Faso before his assassination in 1987, exactly 30 years ago. In the short period, of four years that Sankara led the land of the great, he transformed the country from being a poor country and a country dependent on foreign aid. He transformed it into to an economically independent and socially progressive nation.

One of Sankara's dictum and philosophy was that; **"The revolution and women's liberation go together. We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or out of a surge of human compassion. It is a basic necessity for the revolution to triumph. Women hold up the other half of the sky"**.

Indeed, liberations struggle and people's emancipation was led in part by women and the success any country lies in the active participation in its well being by women.

Chris Hani in unpacking what socialism is about says; **"Socialism is not about big concepts and heavy theory. Socialism is about decent shelter for those who are homeless. It is about water for those who have no safe drinking water. It is about health care, it is about a life of dignity for the old. It is about overcoming the huge divide between urban and rural areas."**

**It is about a decent education for all our people. Socialism is about rolling back the tyranny of the market. As long as the economy is dominated by an unelected, privileged few, the case for socialism will exist.**

**We need to create the pathways to give hope to our youth that they can have the opportunity through education and hard work to escape the trap of poverty".**

Allow me once more Program Director;

To briefly reflect on the importance of this achievement and what this achievement must mean firstly for the graduate, the family, the community and the country by and large.

Your graduation must say and mean to you that you are counted among the men and women who must add significantly to the development and reconstruction of our country. You must appreciate the fact that you are not educated for yourself and immediate family but rather for the entire nation and therefore you have a mammoth of task of joining those individuals who are in earnest engaged in the project of nation building and development.

You must understand that your graduation means that you become the ambassador of the Mokate family and this community that you come from. Therefore I urge you to be a great ambassador and represent both your family and your community well.

The fact that you are a graduate demonstrates that you have great tenacity and resilience since it is not everybody who gets to be a Masters' graduate. Therefore, the discipline and hard work that has made you achieve this important milestone must always guide you in whatever you do.

I must indicate that education is an important tool that shapes your thinking ability and develops your analytical skills. This must mean that you are possessing intellectual capacities that must enable you to resolve daily societal problems that characterizes and confronts our society.

You must therefore use this skill and knowledge you have amassed in the university not to be pompous and arrogant to our society but rather be at the disposal of society to benefit from.

One of the daunting task you must preoccupy yourself with is ensuring that you become part of the army that is at war with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

You must participate in the struggle of ensuring that the current economic trajectory in South Africa is changed. It must be changed because it perpetuates poverty and most importantly inequalities and continue to marginalise the majority of our people.

You must therefore contribute in making sure that the economy of South Africa must benefit all the people of South Africa and do away with economic injustices that have prevailed for many centuries.

Program Director;

In whatever you do you must always act with great honour, honesty and humility. Education impose on you to be have great morals and ethics it is therefore necessary to always conduct yourself in an exemplary manner because you have earned respect of society and you are now even a role model to others hence it becomes absolutely necessary and important to preserve your respect and dignity.

I wish to emphasise the importance of managing your life in a decent manner. You are now looked up as a role model.

Shannon Alder once said **“Chasing a person doesn’t give you value or build values in you. You earn your value by chasing morality and practicing dignity.”**

Morality is the best pillar to propel you to greater levels. You must always do what is right. It will gratify mankind. Values such as Compassion, Respect, Integrity and Discipline will guide and shape you how you conduct yourself.

Your life must always have a purpose. You must listen but never lose purpose of who you are and what you want.

Cde Keabetswe always remember that the purpose of education is to give to the body and to the soul all the beauty and all the perfection and as Tata Mandela once said, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

NOTE One level up in life, you are no longer an ordinary person, a layman, as they say. It is expected by society that you manage your life well.

Seek no popularity but strive for good and excellent reputation, your role in the community. A true leader does not measure his success by comparing himself to others but by evaluating how he is fulfilling his own purpose and vision.

The poorest person in the world is the person without a dream. Your dream should be about positive contribution into the history of mankind

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion I wish to also congratulate your parents and community to have brought you up so well. I must hasten to say do not for a minute believe that this is the end of the journey, actually this is the beginning of the journey where you will be facing real life challenges.

I must advise you to utilize the set of skills you have acquired over the years at the university to survive.

We must all of us today commend our graduate that like a true champion she has ran her race with due diligence and has completed the race regardless of the impediments that she confronted in the course of the race.

My final advice is that in whatever you do you must put God first Good luck in all your endeavours and may the good lord protect you for us

Kofi Anan once said; Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

Today we can proudly say to you comrade, sister, aunt, colleague and fellow compatriot cherish you moment of celebration and make remain proud of yourself and the family that God gave to you.

**Congratulations!!!!**

**I thank you!!!!**