



Speech by MEC Mahlakeng Mahlakeng during the official hand-over of Moses Kotane Hospital in Ledig near Sun City on Monday, March 08, 2010

Date: Monday, March 09, 2010

- Programme Director: Mme Motlapele Ntshabele.
- MEC for Health and Social Development: Mme Rebecca Kasienyane
- The Executive Mayor of Bojanala: Rre Raymond Motsepe
- The Mayor of City of Rustenburg:
- Our Traditional Leaders
- All Councillors present here today

Good day to you all. I am indeed humbled by your presence at such short a notice.

I am aware that invitations to this occasion were communicated to your respective offices three days ago. Friday being the start of the weekend, I guess most of you only received your invitations a few hours ago.

My profound apologies and I am indeed grateful that so many of you still managed to find time at such a short notice.

In any event, this is meant to a brief celebration yet important on our calendar of events as government of the North West province.

Our way of doing business in my department has changed and finds expression in our internal motto.

We change gears quicker. We drive at full throttle to move faster in everything we do. But of course we do that with extreme caution and vigilance as we navigate.

Re matha joaloka ka mohlape oa lipoo tsa dinare. We run like a herd of buffalo bulls.

Programme Director:
The dust has barely settled, yet we are at it again.

A week ago we handed over to the provincial government, Moretele Office Park in Makapanstad to bring services on the door steps on many rural communities in that area.

Today, we are opening another chapter, bringing a health care to hundreds of thousands of rural communities. And off course, the visiting international community coming to our shores for the Fifa Soccer World Cup tournament in less than 90 days from now.

The 2010 Fifa World Cup is now part of our daily ritual. It is in our living rooms. We can feel the vibrations and the momentum gathering by the day.

Nearly all the infrastructure required to ensure successful hosting of the 2010 Fifa World Cup in a form of stadium and airports have been delivered and this is just but one of many such that we are handing over today.

My department is today handing over the Moses Kotane Hospital. The timing of its completion could not have come at a better time.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you are all aware, Phokeng and the City of Rustenburg will be at the front desk as receptionist for our province as hundreds of thousands of soccer spectators converge onto the Royal Bafokeng Sports palace.

The Fifa delegations- some of them are in the country already- will be based at Sun - City and all the lodges around Pilanesberg.

The volume of traffic, between Pilanesberg and Phokeng is expected to triple in weeks ahead of the kick-off between England and the United States Of America.

As department responsible for the building and delivery of quality infrastructure in the province, we are saying:

Herewith is a magnificent health facility, strategically located to rise to the challenge. Not only for the health needs of the Fifa World Cup patrons. But for more than 20 rural communities of Moses Kotane villages who had to travel to Rustenburg to access decent health care facilities.

Our people in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality can now walk into to this hospital, which in my view, is one of the best equipped that I have come across.

Programme Director:

This R196.5m project began on July 13 2005.

It was supposed to have been completed by the contractor, Black Hawk, within 51-months.

That did not happen.

Instead, the contract was extended. I am informed that the contractor could not reach targets because of cash flow problems and disputes regarding payments due to subcontractors.

I made an unannounced visit to this hospital one Friday on January 8 when the construction industry was still on Christmas break. I came here just to check what it is that is holding progress and I as getting extremely impatient.

I met the contractor, Black Hawk, and told him in no uncertain terms. Finish your work by the end of February or else you will be fired for poor performance. I was neither being rude nor threatening. I meant exactly that.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As leaders in government, we are under constant pressure to deliver quality and deliver on time to the millions of people who chose government and put some of us in position of authority to expedite service delivery.

The people of Moses Kotane Local Municipality do not care to know who Black Hawk is!

They come to me, to find out how much longer should they wait for their hospital that government promised them five years ago.

The people of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati will not care about who Ilima Project or their JV partner is!

What they want to see is a centralized service point at Mini Garona Government Offices in Vryburg. They are tired of having to look for government offices scattered in town when they need services.

I hope contractors- established and emerging- will heed this warning and take it seriously. I have no space for under performers. I will not hesitate to terminate your contracts and get serious people to do the job faster, diligently and deliver quality infrastructure.

To emerging contractors I say:

You cannot emerge forever when you have done multiple projects for government or a multi-million-rand project like this hospital.

Even seeds do not germinate forever. They grow until we say; they are fully grown into plants.

In case you think this is just empty talk:

I have already terminated two contracts awarded to the same company in less than three months.

That was for the construction of the Mini Garona which I spoke about earlier, because of poor performance by the contractor.

The same for Brits Hospital, because the partner in the Joint Venture applied for liquidation.

Allow me Programme Director: in conclusion; to talk about the Sun City to Phokeng road.

This is also a Fifa Protocol route.

We have made known that dispute we have with regards to the appointment of the contractor on site and others like them elsewhere.

There is now visible progress on the road after we made an offer to the contractor in early February.

Will the road be finished before kick-off of Soccer World Cup?

The contractor, Moseme Construction, made commitment to government that they will complete the project by May 11, 2010. The road must be handed over to Fifa by May21, 2010.

The importance of this road cannot be overemphasized.

In spite of whatever dispute we may have, we cannot allow ourselves to become a weak-link in this important chain to host and deliver the best Fifa Soccer World Cup show piece.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I now invite you for a guided tour of the completed Moses Kotane Hospital.

Enjoy it.

I thank you