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Time to say goodbye before the curtain falls....

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Public Works MEC Jerry Thibedi, whose term of office ends with that of the current term of the government few weeks from now, bid farewell to his senior managers today.

Described during his farewell function as ``a voice of reason", Thibedi told his senior managers, that he does ``not regret the 15 years" he spent in government since 1994. *Who is Jerry Thibedi?*

He did not pronounce on his next move after the elections, but speculation is rife that Thibedi would not be lost to politics.

Speaking during a private farewell function in Rustenburg, departmental head, Obakeng Mongale, said Thibedi always, came across as ``a very rational and calm' person.

``His (Thibedi) life has been that of service to his people. We hope he will continue to be a voice of reason and an embodiment of service to the people," Mongale said.

He called on managers to remain ``a good team" and support whoever would be appointed to succeed Thibedi after the elections.

``It is for the country and not for individuals," he said.

Thibedi acknowledged that it was indeed:

...a drastic shift in my life from being an activist to a leader in government."

``...but I have learnt a lot from you and that is why managers have such a fundamental responsibility," he said in returning the compliment. <u>Jerry Thibedi's CV</u>

Thibedi described politics as ``a risk one has to take".

``It's a business and it's like an investment. A good leader will proudly say in the end, there goes my people," he said.

Thibedi called on his senior managers to continue to lead and a shining example and win more awards during the Premiers Excellence Awards.

