



**tourism**

Department:  
Tourism  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **OPENING ADDRESS**

**BY MEC DESBO MOHONO DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**

**AT THE ANNUAL PROVINCIAL JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**CELEBRATIONS HELD AT TSHWARA SPORTS GROUND**

**IN BOITEKONG VILLAGE**

**BOJANALA DISTRICT**

**ON THE, 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015**

**Programme Director**

**Honorable Councilors Present**

**MaApara Nkwe a rona**

**Media Houses Present**

**Comrades and Friends**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Ladies and Gentlemen I send my warmest greetings in this cold yet historic day of our lifetime. It is exactly thirty nine years (39) today that we mark and remember the lives of our chivalrous youth of '76 generation. I am also glad that their spirit and relentless commitment to social injustice is continuing to be our inspiration today. Again let me thank you for honoring this invitation from the provincial government, because I know that you had a choice of either coming or doing your normal day to day errands. Bagaetsho letsatsi la gompieno ke segopotso sa maikaelelo, boineelo le bopelo kgale jo bo bontshitsweng ke basha ba ngwaga wa 1976. Re ne ra bona basha ba ema ka dinao ba nna le sebete le matlhagatlhaga a go emelana le puso ya tlhaolele e e neng e sa batle go bona ngwana wa motho montsho a nna le isago e e botoka. Maungo a boganka le bopelo kgale jwa bone ke a re tsweletseng go a muna le gompieno jaana.

Now that we know what the '76 youth has done and we know that their diagram of action has worked tremendously so, the question is what plan does the 2015 youth have? What is your war-cry, what is it that you are supposed to stand for and fight for, just like the '76 generation did against the mighty oppression of Apartheid? The youth of today needs to find a common ground and most importantly common enemy that they have to defeat. As one Pixley Ka Isaka Seme once said "To shape the quality of your lives through the quality of your choices and decisions, ranging from the career you choose, to the books you read, the time you wake up in the morning, and the thoughts you think during the hours of the day is of quintessence". Close quote. One indispensable factor that our youth is faced with is the issue of choice and most importantly the implementation thereof afterwards.

Comrades and Friends we can sit all day long and dilly-dally wasting time, but it all starts with you. This is a new chapter, this is a new marathon. The '76 generation has long finished their race, it is now upon us to stand up and be counted in our journey. The 76 generation has declared war, but as the youth of today you must now fight and win at the penultimate end. On trial for his life in 1964, Nelson Mandela said: "The most important political document ever adopted by the ANC is the Freedom Charter".

The freedom charter calls for redistribution of land; it provides for nationalisation of mines, banks, monopoly industry, because bigger cartels are owned by one race only and without such nationalisation, racial domination would be perpetuated despite the spread of political power. The realisation of the Freedom Charter would open up fresh fields for a prosperous African population of all classes, including the middle class." Close quote.

Today after 21 years of freedom, our country's wealth remains largely in white hands. Research has shown that under-achievement in employment equity indicate that the acquisition of political rights has not translated into the redistribution of economic power. Apartheid land-ownership patterns also remain unchanged despite the government call on this matter. Economic Empowerment has not led to the promotion of entrepreneurship. It has unfolded as the acquisition of equity in existing corporate structures, leaving control of the economy largely unchanged. The question is what would you, the youth of today, do about our challenges? After all these years of political freedom we are still miles away from the aspirations of the freedom charter and there is a growing impatience with the pace of transformation which mandates the youth of today to make the loudest cry for economic freedom in our lifetime.

Just like the Youth of Mandela's time, we are preaching a "revolutionary war" and therefore our language is bound to be fire charged and revolutionary, demanding economic freedom in our lifetime. Again what we should realise is that after attaining the economic freedom, then what? Those who find our pronouncement provocative and feel threatened by our militant and belligerent posture should know that they have no future in the leadership of this province and the country at large. As government again a finger should be pointed at us, we must also mobilise the youth to participate in strengthening all spheres of our system of government. With regard to local government, among other things, we must strive to involve the youth in the Ward Committees, and include youth development programmes in the municipal Integrated Development Plans. The struggle for economic freedom requires the same degree of mass mobilisation achieved in the past to overcome the legacy of apartheid, such mass mobilisation requires the revitalisation of all freedom loving formations to once again become the tribunes of the people, offering leadership and actively engaging in the search for political solutions not stifling debate through antagonistic tactics that are alien to the culture and spirit of our movement. But again I have to remind the comrades that all this militant approach starts with you.

No one can come from Tlokweng, Madikwe, Pella, Molatedi, Kanana, Chaneng, Mafenya or Mabalstad to wake you up in your slumber land. Now I urge everybody to wake up and smell the aroma of economic freedom we are inhaling as the new Democratic South Africa. When you're young, you think everything you do is disposable. You move from now to now, crumpling time up in your hands, tossing it away. You're your own speeding car. You think you can get rid of things and pardoned all the time. Times in dreams are frozen. You can never get away from where you've been, but at least you can start building your own future. Building starts with the will power then the rest will follow.

We make our own choices, then the choices end up making us. I therefore request that all of us in this gathering and many others, as well as those at home, spend a solemn moment of contemplation, however brief it may be, and most importantly to come up with ways and plans for the future generations. In that way we will be connecting with our heroes and heroines of '76 and they will be proud to see that their efforts are not gone to waste. I therefore challenge all of you to note down today's day and in the year 2016 reflect back on the promises you are going to make to yourself about changing your fortunes.

As the old saying goes "People with good intentions make promises, but people with good character keep them." Most of you have that moral fibre within now it depends on you to unleash it.

**Viva class of '76 Viva. Aluta Continua.**

**KE A LEBOGA.I THANK YOU.**

**MEC-DESBO MOHONO**

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM NORTH WEST PROVINCE**