



tourism

Department:
Tourism
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OPENING NOTES

BY MEC DESBO MOHONO DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

DURING THE DEBATE OF COMRADE JOHN BEAVER

MARKS HELD AT THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL

LEGISLATURE

MMABATHO

NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT

ON THE, 19th MARCH 2015

Motlotlegi Mmusu Kgotla

Honourable Members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honorable members as I greet you this morning, I do so in the name of our former Torch bearers and Iconic giants of our struggle Comrade Moses Kotane and John Beaver Marks. Last week we marked the reburial of Comrade Kotane and it was sad but also joyous at the very same breath in a sense that finally his family and South Africans will finally know where he was laid to rest. Again this upcoming weekend we will be in Ventersdorp paying our last respect to our Hero, Brother, Father, Comrade and Isithwalande Uncle John Beaver Marks.

Uncle John Beaver Marks who was born on the 21st of March in 1903 at the then Western Transvaal in Ventersdorp, a dorpie famously known for its oppression, disbelief and predispositions. This is a man who stood tall amongst his peers and to date one cannot attach his expertise as he was a master in many fields and was regarded among others as a Teacher, Political Activist, Trade Unionist, Political Prisoner and many other titles that were bestowed upon him. This was a man who was from humble beginnings, born from a railway worker father and a midwife mother.

Honorable members many of you will agree with me that our country today is a democratic country based on the rule of law and the fundamental human rights, largely owing to the sacrifices made by the likes of Uncle J.B Marks and many of our struggle stalwarts. We live in a country that is governed by our documented constitution that continues to be our radar in making sure that we prioritize the needs of our people. They say an iron sharpens another iron, now Uncle J.B and his fellow comrades have paved the way for all of us to tread on.

The encumbrance is on us today and as the old saying goes "It is easy to tell the toiler how best he can carry his pack, but no one can rate a burden's weight until it has been on his back". Close quote. Now the question is do we have cadres who are brave and selfless as Comrade J.B Marks amongst us today? Do we have members that know that the people in everything we do are the sole proprietor of this country of ours in everything we do as government of the day? And lastly are we grooming enough credible future leaders like Comrade J.B, who were grilled and chiseled to become icons of their generation? Too many questions but answers are found wanting or even worse excuses. For the surname to be carried from one generation to the other, it means there has to be a pride of characters that can carry that name forward.

Now today Honorable members we need just a dosage of Uncle J.B Marks spirit to awaken us from the slumber land we found ourselves in as the current agents of hope within our different societies. Our Freedom Charter, which stipulates that South Africa belongs to all those who live in it, be it black or white, and that no government can justly claim authority, unless it was based on the will of all the people should continue to mirror and reflect in all our programs and service delivery models. Again for our Freedom Charter to function accordingly and viably it requires us to be very sober minded and carry our mandate with an aura of bravery and respect just like Uncle J.B did when he escaped assassination in 1929 when fascist opened fire on the platform he was speaking from. That incident served only to steel his determination and hunger in realizing a dream of equality for all.

When mentioning J.B Marks name one should have shivers down their spine thus reviving the spirit of fighting all other related intolerances that we are faced with today. Let us Honorable Members do everything in our power and within the bounds and anecdotes of possibilities deal decisively with anything and everything that would undermine the gains of freedom and democracy that came through so much pain and sacrifice that Uncle J.B Marks and his fellow comrades went through.

In conclusion Honorable Members as Martin Luther King once said as I quote "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed" close quote. Now it is really up to us to see to it that after Uncle J.B Marks has given us manna of freedom, how best we share it amongst us, our people and most importantly amongst the future generations to come.

A Freedom that only asks what is in it for me. A Freedom without commitment, honesty and the will to serve people. A Freedom without love, charity or duty of patriotism **is but unworthy of our founding ideals and those who died in its defence.**

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF UNCLE J.B MARKS LONG LIVE.

KE A LEBOGA.I THANK YOU.

MEC-DESBO MOHONO

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM NORTH WEST PROVINCE