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Department of Public Works  
North West Provincial Government  
Republic of South Africa

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**Address by North West MEC for Public Works, Jerry Dimotana Thibedi, during the  
“2008 MEC’s Excellence Awards” held at the Mmabatho Tusk Casino Resort,  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008.**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 19, 2008

- **Programme Director:** Mme Motlapele Ntshabele
- **The Executive Mayor Of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality:** Cllr Themba Gwabeni
- **Kgosi Ya Barolong Boo Ratshidi:** Motlotlegi Jeff Montshioa
- **Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport, Roads, Community Safety and Public Works:** Honourable Moeti Moiloa
- **Head of Department:** Obakeng Mongale
- Senior Managers of the Department present here tonight
- Colleagues representing their various directorates and regions in different levels and categories
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening to you all.

I rise to address you on this important day on our calendar of events. It is a special day we have set aside to acknowledge and say thank you to our colleagues. Colleagues at all levels who spare no effort in steering the ship through turbulent waters through their work.

But before we come to that:

Allow me Programme Director, by way of introduction, to add to an already long list of condolences, my own to the late Mama Afrika, Miriam Makeba.

She passed away on foreign soil on Sunday a week ago. Her remains were cremated on home soil this past weekend.

In the same vein, our sincere condolences and sympathies to the families, relatives and friends of our own.

Mr Elias Setlhodi (54) of Setlopo Village, Mr Isaac Marosane (46) of Seweding Village and the Reverend Richard Mokalane (63) of Magogoe Village.

These three colleagues, from the Molopo District in the Central Region, were killed while on duty. This was in a tragic accident on Monday last week just outside Mafikeng Airport.

I am informed that Mr Marosane was buried this past Sunday and that Reverend Mokalanane and Mr Setlhodi will be laid to rest this weekend.

In them – including Mama Africa- we saw an embodiment of true commitment, loyalty, dedication, the love for the country and its people and delivery of quality services to our communities.

Coming back to this special award ceremony:

It is a ritual to meet under the “MEC’s Excellence Awards” banner to appreciate, recognize and encourage a sense of selflessness in the way we carry out our duties as public servants.

It is worth mentioning that these awards are all about adherence to the eight principles of Batho Pele:

- Consultation
- Service Standards
- Access
- Courtesy
- Information
- Openness and Transparency
- Redress
- Value for Money.

It is this set of principles that form the cornerstone of policy and legislative framework for service delivery in our public service.

Inspired by these principles, the men and women we will be honouring tonight continue to demonstrate commitment to their work.

And it is this commitment, Programme director, which has assisted this department and government as a whole to achieve our mandate of improving for the better, the lives of our people.

I feel proud to stand here and say without fear of contradiction that we have not failed our people.

That explains why the honour of “Best Performing Department” was bestowed on us in a form of “Platinum Award” last year.

We need to keep the momentum.

As I am speaking to you now, Service Delivery Standards posters are displayed in all our offices across the province.

These are for clients to see and judge our capacity to deliver on those standards formulated by each and every directory in the department.

For example, talking of our Buildings Directorate:

They have committed themselves to:

- Conceptualize hospital building project for 18 months only;
- Advertise a tender for the project and do the adjudication for four months only;
- Construct the facility within 36 months only; and
- Issue a certificate of payment in 30 days only.

These and many others which you can read for yourselves on our notice boards, call on all of us, to get our hands dirty and work even harder.

We must never get tired to make a meaningful and significant contribution towards bettering the lives of our people.

Programme Director:

Those who will be earning their stripes tonight will be honoured in the following five categories:

- Best Performing Employee;
- Best Performing Directorate;
- Best Performing Project;
- Best Performing Programme; and
- Best Innovation

### **In conclusion:**

Allow me to take this moment to wish all the nominees the best of luck tonight.

And last but not least, in honour of Madiba, may Bafana Bafana please make us proud in their friendly match against the mighty Cameroon in Rustenburg.

**Ke a leboga.**

