

SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, HONOURABLE H.D. YAWA,
MPL AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE MRS AGNES
MARIBE IN JOUBERTON ON THE 27 APRIL 2006

Programme Director

Bishop Nkwe

Baruti Ie Bagogi

The Bereaved families Boo-Rra Maribe, Boo-Rra Ramphora

Community leaders

Relatives, Comrades and Friends

Fellow Mourners

The 19th Century Cuban Revolutionary, Visionary, Poet and Author, Jose Marti once said, "I have lived, it was to duty that I pledged my arms and not once did the sun drop down behind the hills, that did not see my struggle and my victory"

Mme Aggie Maribe and the late veteran struggle heroine, Comrade Motlalepule Ellen Khuzwayo may also rightfully lay claim to these words, for our sun saw their struggle and their

victory as they toiled every day in pursuit of the cause of our people.

I am privileged and honoured to convey the sincere condolences of the Premier of the North West Province and my colleagues in the Executive Council to the Maribe and Ramphora families, their friends and fellow congregants in the Anglican Church on the loss of a wife, a mother, a sister in the faith, a neighbour and a friend.

Death is a painful trial, not only to the bereaved family, relatives and friends, but also to all of us who had come to know the Mme Maribe. It tests our collective strength, courage and hope. It also tests our ability and humanity to close ranks with the bereaved.

Whilst we know that this grief will pass, and become part of our past, we trust that you will in mourning her passing away, also be able to celebrate her life, her achievements, her contribution and dedication to her husband, her family and her community.

We have converged on this day therefore to pay tribute to and salute her as a special person who had occupied a special place in our lives, one whose life touched thousands of us in a special way.

Mme Maribe was a true human being who was passionate in love. She valued life and cherished freedom and equality.

It is therefore only fair for us to grieve and mourn the loss of her life. It makes sense that we should feel a terrible sense of desolation.

No words are enough to take away your grief, however, our thoughts and prayers will always be with you during these trying times.

May we take courage comfort and strength from the words of the Apostle Paul who said:

“Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

Yet, in all of these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Psalm 125 Verse 1 also says, "Those who trust in the Lord, are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever."

The clear and unequivocal and unprecedented mandate that we have received from our people in the 1 March 2006 local government elections has placed a profound responsibility on us as an ANC government.

We understood that mandate to mean that we should redouble our efforts to accelerate change. That we should redouble our pace of delivery of basic services. That we should redouble our effort to eradicate poverty and the creation of a better life for all.

Our sun saw the struggle of Chris Hani and our people's victory as we toiled every day in pursuit of the cause of our people. Our sun saw the struggle of Chris Hani and our people's victory as we toiled every day in pursuit of Socialism. That is the Freedom that many fought and gave their lives for. That is the freedom that Mme Maribe wanted.

We wish Mme Maribe a peaceful rest, assured that we will not betray her hopes for freedom.

Gomotsegang - Akwehlanga Lungehlanga.

God be with you.

Ke a leboga.