

**MAYOR CLR MY MMAKOLA'S KEY NOTE ADDRESS TO THE EPHRAIM
MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PRAYER SERVICE OF THE LATE
DR NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA**

VENUE: TOWN HALL

DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2013

Programme Director: Hon. Speaker Cllr Kekana
Members of the Limpopo Legislature
Sekhukhune District Mayor: Hon. Cllr Mogobo Magabe
Mayors from sister Municipalities within Sekhukhune District
Members of the Ephraim Mogale Municipality Executive Committee
Honorable Speaker, Chief whip and Councilors
Maapara Nkwe
HOD and Municipal Managers
Representatives from various Government Departments
Representatives of various Political Organizations
Representatives from various Organised Labour (Unions)
Staff Members
Members of the Media
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dumelang, Lotshani, Goeie dag, Good day Ladies and Gentlemen!

I stand before this august gathering, with sadness and tears running through my eyes because "Mokgapa o mogolo o wele, thaga dilla mashogoshogo".

As the sun set on Thursday the 5 December, there was no indication or sign that when we will be wake-up midnight, greeted by the sad news that Tata Madiba is no more. Like any South African and the international communities, this sad news did not go well with the communities of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality; we were all shattered that former first Democratic President, Cde Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela has passed on.

Program Director, the communities of the municipality received the news with shock as we all have hoped that Tata Madiba will keep providing the guidance to all of us on how to continue improving the lives of our people, as “Mogolo ga a swanela go hlokega baneng” le gore “Mahlaku a maswa a itshwareletsa ka a matala”.

As we gathered here today, Program Director, we should celebrate the life of President Mandela who sacrificed his entire life for the liberation of the African people and the democratic dispensations in this country. Madiba a “beacon of hope and a true gentle giant” of our country, who taught us forgiveness, and reconciliations, but most importantly, “love and peace”.

Cde Madiba, a trialed and tested leader who emerged as political leader faced with a challenge to build a nation in which all people - irrespective of race, colour, creed, religion or sex, emerged victorious.

Mandela’s commitment to fight for the democratic dispensation cannot just be in vain, but a lesson that we should all learn and commit to. While He committed to democratic dispensation which we all achieved, we need to take the struggle forward by committing to uplift the lives of the people of this country, in particular the communities in rural areas by providing the basic services such as water, electricity, roads etc.

As we celebrate President Mandela’s life we must all remember that he never lived a bitter life. After spending 27 years in jail, Mandela never lost his vision of democratic South Africa that belongs to all who live in it as per the commitment in the Freedom Charter. Mandela never thought of doing the same to his cruasifier, the apartheid regime. In 1993 the apartheid regime killed Cde Chris Hani, the then Secretary General of the SACP, and ANC leaders, Mandela stood-up and provided the leadership everyone was looking for, requesting all of us who were angry not to fight-back, but to stay calm. He realized that as a nation we will all fall into the enemy’s trap and be distracted from the road to democracy. Mandela

taught all of us that “anger is a temporary feeling – you soon forget it, particularly if you are involved in positive activities and attitude”. While we mourn Mandela’s death, we are also celebrating his life, and we are happy that He led this nation into democracy in his life time not as an angry man, the campaign we all remember.

Program Director, people sometimes claim Madiba as theirs, trying to ignore the fact that Tata is the graduate of the African National Congress (ANC) and its collective leadership. Cde Mandela was a disciplined cadre of the movement whose action, activities and programmes were always guided by the principle of the ANC of collectiveness. In His words Mandela said “I must not be isolated from the collective who are responsible for the success”. No one will ever divorce Cde Mandela from ANC as he once said; when he died, he will look for the ANC branch in heaven and if he kind find one, he is committed to form and launch the first ANC branch in heaven. Mandela further promised that “I have always been a member of African National Congress and I will die remaining a member of the African National Congress”.

Mandela never compromised his political principles and was always a source of strength even in prison. During the seventies Madiba refused to an offer of remission of sentences if he recognized Transkei and settled there and in 1980 when the then apartheid government President Botha’s offered him freedom if he had to renounce violence. Because of his commitment for democratic dispensations and freedom for all the people of South Africa, the key principle of the African National African of liberating all, not individuals, he did not accept such offers.

Program Director, as we always sing and toi-toi, that Mandela “ga gona yo a swananang le yena” we really mean it. By now we don’t have courageous leaders who can sacrifice as the Cde Madiba did. As leaders of today, we need

to step into his shoes, but most importantly committing ourselves to deliver the services to communities as Mandela sacrificed for.

As Mandela once said “on my last day I want to know that those who remain behind will say: the man who lies here has done his duty for his country and his people”. What more can we ask from you Tata, you did all what we have, you have empowered and educated us, you sacrificed all your life for our freedom and better life for all of us. The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality has reached its millennium goal of electrifying all its villages, a program you committed to provide electricity to everybody as part of making a better life for all the people, most importantly taking-care of the environment we are leaving on. The only better way of honouring Mandela is to continue with all the programmes that will make a better life of our communities such as developing qualitative infrastructure such roads, sanitations provision of clean water and creation of jobs.

Program Director, we are left with one expectation from you Tata, to ask you to guide us as you will be participating as an ancestor and angel in improving the lives of our people. You have played your roles by running the raise of betterment of the life of the people,

Dr Mandela, you have left us to commit in our leadership, to improve the lives of our communities as you once said “what counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead”. O re file goba go re shiela bokoloti and what is left is for us to pick up the spear and continue with the struggle to make a better life for all the people of Ephraim Mogale and the country at large to enjoy the fruits of democracy you planted by delivering the basic service to them.

Program Director, please allow me to thank the Mandela Family for allowing Tata to change our lives and contribute to democratic dispensation to the country, most importantly to be the father of this nation.

May your Soul Rest in Peace Tata

I thank you.