

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE DURING PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATORS FORUM HELD AT LEPHALALE , MOGOL FUNCTION HALL.

- The Premier of Limpopo Province, Premier Cassel Mathale.
- Head of Communications of our Provincial Departments and municipalities.
- Media Liaison Officers.
- Media Houses.
- Patriots and Compatriots.

I bring you revolutionary greetings from the collective leadership of Lephalale.

Lephalale feels honoured to host a forum of communicators because we feel that the timing of this forum is unique and special. It is special because it takes place just after the week-end in which we celebrated of Freedom Day. This meeting is also important because it take place during the month in which two of our revolutionary icons, Cde Chris Hani and Cde OR Tambo died twenty years ago in 1993.

During the opening of communicators 'forum like this one we should go back to the basics and quote what the former president of the African National Congress said when he officially opened the first conference of Department of Information and Publicity of ANC in Lusaka, exactly 30 years ago on 05th July 1983.

He said. *I quote :*

“This conference of Information and Publicity has the task of putting its finger on the pulse of our information and publicity. We should identify the problem areas and propose ways and means of remedying these problems and difficulties which have confronted our information machinery. The task that confronts this conference is not an easy one. The difficulties are manifold yet not insurmountable.” Close quote.

These words by the visionary revolutionary president OR Tambo were relevant thirty years ago and are still relevant to this forum today. You will agree with me that communication machinery today is confronted with many challenges and difficulties; but this challenges are different from challenges that the ANC was confronted with, thirty years ago when it was still a liberation movement. But like challenges of 1983, challenges of 2013 when ANC is a ruling party are manifold but not insurmountable.

President OR Tambo requested delegates in the first conference of ANC communication officers in Lusaka to put their fingers on the pulse of information and publicity and identify communication challenges and remedies. Today, thirty years after he made this request and twenty years after his death, I hereby repeat that request because I think it that purpose is your primary mandate as communicators and your main reason of assembling here today.

Let me welcome to Lephalale municipality, affectionately known as the Heartbeat of the Waterberg.. The area where the beauty of natural fauna and flora exist side by side with complicated technology of modern life. Relax and feel free because you are at the area which Limpopo Growth and Development Plan correctly classify as the champion of petro-chemical cluster.

Lephalale is one of the few areas around the world where you can get two power stations at one area. Besides these power stations, we are also a home of vast mineral deposits, especially coal. This is the area which was pronounced by the Premier during his State of the Province Address as the place where the democratic South Africa is going to build its first city.

All these developments compelled us to change our vision and mission statements. Our new vision statement is "To build a vibrant city and be the energy hub of Africa." Economic activities, especially infrastructure development, taking place at this area confirms that in deed we are building a vibrant city.

Honourable Premier and heads of communications, please allow me to take you back through political memory lane and remind communicators that this area where government is busy building a city is the very same area where foundation of the democratic South Africa was discussed. I hope you all know that the cabinet bosberaad of National Party where the then president of Apartheid South Africa, FW de Klerk, told his closest political advisors that he intend to release Dr Nelson Mandela unconditionally took place at a private resort here in Lephalale. If you were not aware please read the book by Professor Pippa Green, the professor of journalism at the University of Pretoria. The book is titled "Choice, Not Fate" and this information about National party discussing the fate of Mandela here in Lephalale is under the sub heading : "Waiting for Mandela."

I believe you all know that FW de Klerk, Roelf Meyer and Cde Cyril Ramaphosa met several times at D’Nyala resort here at Lephalale as they plan what was later to be known as Convention for Democratic South Africa (CODESA). The letter written by cde Mandela to de Klerk dated 24 September 1992 bears reference to this.

I am mentioning all these things to confirm the political and economic relevance of Lephalale and to show you that you will be politically, socially and economically correct to come back and visit lephalale as an investor or eco-tourist after this PGCF meeting.

I THANK YOU

CLLR MOLOKO JACK MAEKO

MAYOR - LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY