

TRIBUTE BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, HONORABLE CHUPU MATHABATHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE MOSS MALULEKE, HELD AT TSHIKUNDU VILLAGE, IN THE COLLINS CHABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

02 August 2022

Programme Director

The bereaved Maluleke family;

Friends, relatives, and neighbors of the late Moss Maluleke;

Councillors and employees of Collins Chabane Local Municipality;

Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament;

Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Members of the Executive Council in Limpopo;

Executive Mayors and Mayors of our Municipalities;

The provincial Leadership of SALGA;

Leadership of the African National Congress;

Leaders of various other political parties;

Friends from the Media;

Fellow mourners:

Please receive and accept condolences on behalf of the Limpopo Provincial Government. This is a day that should not be. The news of the senseless killing of Councillor Moss Maluleke have devastated all of us.

We do not have sufficient words to express our pain, our anger, and our sense of loss.

All we can say, is that we have lost a committed public servant. We have lost a true community activist. The Collins Chabane Local Municipality has been dealt a devastating blow by a ruthless and thoughtless mob of criminals.

The killers of Councillor Moss Maluleke also attempted the life of his son. His son was also shot and had to be hospitalized. We are encouraged by his progress and wish him a complete recovery.

The death of Councillor Moss Maluleke is also a great loss to the Vhembe District Municipality. Those who have committed this dreadful deed have robbed the people of Collins Chabane, the people of Vhembe and the entire Limpopo Province of a committed public representative.

Their evil deeds cannot go unpunished.

I want to thank the police in our province for working around the clock to apprehend the suspects. We commend the police for the swiftness of the arrests.

We believe that an open court trial would reveal the motive for this heinous act and if there are other people involved in this murder.

The one thing we can say proudly as Limpopo is that our police know how to do their job. If you commit a crime in this province, you must know that it is only a matter of time before you are arrested and brought to book.

Our province refuses to be a safe heaven for criminals.
We also appreciate the good working relationship between our communities and the policing structures. It is this working relationship that makes it impossible for criminals to hide in any part of our province.

Our police have solved very complex cases, from murder to cash in transit robberies. If you do it in Limpopo, you will be caught.
Whereas we are still pained by the death of Councillor Moss Maluleke, we are comforted by the knowledge that his killers are not rooming the streets. The alleged killers are arrested. They are where they belong – behind bars.

We urge the investigators to do everything necessary to ensure that the killers are convicted.

No one who has participated in this senseless killing should evade trial or walk free.

Our only concern is with the court system.
We have been calling for harsher sentences from our courts and we don't seem to be getting the audience we want.
People get sentenced for lengthy jail terms for killing animals but a minimum accepted sentence for the killing of a human being is a mere 15 years. This must change.

If it means that we must change the law regulating minimum sentences, we must do it.

I am saying this because in our country a parole seems more like a right than a privilege. Convicted criminals know that they only need to spend half of their sentences and they would be out rooming the streets again.

There is clear evidence that the correctional system is not achieving the indented purpose.

A good number of crimes in this country are committed by people who have been released on parole. Some of the offenders commits their crimes just a few hours after being released through parole.

The killer of Precious Ramabulana was a parolee. The young woman would still be alive had that criminal being allowed to serve a full sentence.

However, due to our justice system, criminal are given parole freely and they come back to terrorise and kill our people.

Programme Director

We must campaign for a radical overhaul of the parole system to ensure that criminal spends more time behind bars than under correctional supervision through parole. Communities have a right to feel safe.

Today, South Africans spends more money on personal security and the security of their homes than we spend on food. We live behind high walls with additional security features and yet we are not safe.

Criminals no longer fear the system because they know that the law no longer bites.

Our security problems are compounded by the high prevalence of undocumented people in our country.

Each time we try to confront this challenge and address the problem, we are accused of being xenophobic. The truth is that we can no longer ignore this challenge. we must support the efforts by Minister Aron Motsoaledi to fix the immigration in the country.

Fellow Mourners

As we lay the mortal remains of Councilor Maluleke to rest, we must remember what he stood for.

Councillor Moss Maluleke stood for service delivery and nothing less. Hence Big Moss as he was affectionately known, was referred to as 'the champion of development and service delivery.'

He wanted to take the municipality to greater heights. When this municipality was established a few years ago, there were many people who said that this municipality will not be viable. He wanted to prove such critics wrong.

He wanted to build Collins Chabane Local Municipality to become one of the most successful municipalities in the province and in the country.

He was obsessed with the task of recruiting and retaining proper skills to the municipality. He wanted to fix the governance challenges in the municipality.

Councillor Maluleke was committed to stabilizing the finances of the municipality. He had wished to deliver a clean audit for this municipality.

This is something that can still be done by those of you who are at the municipality as a tribute to him.

As Councillors, you can build a strong governance machinery within the municipality. You can enhance your collective ability to provide leadership and oversight to the municipal administration. You can lead Mayor Maluleke's municipality to become an oasis of local economic development. You can build Collins Chabane Municipality into a harbor of opportunities for the residents of this area.

Through your local economic development programs, you can support local businesses to grow and thrive.

You can provide sustainable job opportunities for the people of this municipality. This is what Councillor Maluleke died fighting to achieve.

The start of your efforts should be to stabilize the municipal finances.

The ideal of a clean audit should not be an impossible dream for this municipality. Councillor Maluleke believed that it was a realizable dream – he worked every day for

the realization of this dream.

Councillor Maluleke worked to build an accountable municipality. It is your collective challenge as councillors for this municipality to build a municipality that is accountable and has a dynamic relationship with communities.

As councillors, you must be accessible like your late mayor has always been. His Worship Mayor Maluleke was not an ivory tower. He was a man of the people. He was not a celebrity. You would always find him with the people.

Programme Director

In his honour, you must build a municipality which shuns corruption, mis-management, and fraud (The Toxic Mix). I can speak with authority and say Big Moss was not a corrupt mayor. He respected public resources.

He never confused municipal budget with his personal budget. He knew that the monies of the municipality are the monies for service delivery and not personal entertainment. Councillor Maluleke did not lead a high maintenance lifestyle using public resources.

Fighting corruption, wastage and mismanagement in the municipality should be a program you take up in honour of our the fallen mayor. You must never disappoint him in his grave.

In his honour, the municipality must improve its project planning capabilities. You need to ensure that your projects are properly designed, well-planned, sufficiently financed and delivered on time.

We do not want to see project that takes forever to finish.

We do not want to pay full monies for water projects while the people remain without drinking water.

We don't want to pay for road projects while the communities remain without proper roads.

We want value for money – this is what Mayor Maluleke represented.

To achieve this, you need to ensure that the municipality appoints suitably qualified and skilled personnel.

If municipalities can achieve this, you would equally be addressing another thorny challenge of under-expenditure of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Our municipalities cannot afford to return huge sums of monies to the National Treasury whilst our people remain without services and proper infrastructure.

Doing things, the right way is the best monument we can ever erect for our late mayor.

Fellow Mourners

Please allow me as I conclude to humble myself and make a clarion call. To the Maluleke family, relatives, members of the community, I am pleading for calm and restraint during this mourning period.

We are all aware that police have apprehended suspects in this case, investigations are continuing, and as I said we have full confidence in them.

Therefore, we all need to allow them enough space and freedom to crack this case like they did with other cases.

Fellow Mourners

To the media, I am calling upon you to exercise fair and responsible reporting during times like these. The tendency displayed by some of you purporting that Big Miss's murder was political, is very wrong.

Majority of media houses have been reporting that there are political killings in Limpopo. The killing of people is an emotive matter and responsible reporting is imperative in this regard.

As I call for calm and restraint during this time of mourning, I call upon all stakeholders to preach the gospel of allowing our police to do their work.

Today we bid farewell to our beloved soldier, brother, father, uncle, comrade, combat for live and a true patriot. His remains will be with us no more.

As he is departing to join his ancestors and other heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle, we mourn his untimely passing on.

That is why it is against the abovementioned background that we say, media speculations stops right now and into the future. The people in mourning will be allowed to exercise their freedom to mourn without provocation.

Members of the community will also continue to be in mourning.

Programme Director

To the Maluleke family, allow me to leave you with the following words of comfort from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21 verse 4;

It says, "The Lord will wipe every tear from your eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain."

Etlela e Kurhula Your Worship Mayor Moses Maluleke!

Rest in Peace M'nwanati.
Inkomu