

ADDRESS BY ACTING PREMIER AND MEC OF TREASURY, HON. MEC
SEAPARO SEKOATI TO THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT SUMMIT HELD IN
BOLIVIA LODGE ON THE 24TH OCTOBER 2019

Programme Director

The Provincial DG, Ntate Nape Nchabeleng

All HOD's and CEO's present

All other Senior Managers of various Departments and Provincial entities present

Ladies & Gentlemen

All Protocol is observed

On the occasions like this, many people would always jump with joy in finding themselves in the midst of the “brain box” of their organisation.

A meeting like this would always bring to one an opportunity to pick issues and sulk wisdom from the best crop of our wise-man.

But I must mention that when I was asked to present a keynote address, I had mixed feelings because I am expected to pat you on the back for, amongst others, the overall audit performance of the 2018/19 financial year.

But on the other hand, I have always asked myself if we can confidently stand on the highest beacon of conviction and say with all confidence that our audit outcomes have value for money.

Do these outcomes truly bring about changes in the life of Koko Madimetja in Makotopong, can some young women in the villages of Njakanjaka or a graduate from Tshakuma relate to these outcomes and our public service administration?

I am not raising these questions because I am not proud of our collective work, nor do I because I am a sceptic, but I am raising these questions so that as we compliment ourselves, we must equally be critical and realistic of the existing material conditions on the ground.

I am raising these questions so that you, as accounting officers and senior management you must start to think on production orientated mentality and delink audit outcomes and the various service delivery accolades from ordinary accounting processes and good governance,

and link them to the fundamental changes they have bring to the masses of our people. And whether those changes are tangible and sustainable.

Programme Director, probably let me start from the beginning and take this moment to congratulate the two Departments that got Clean audit outcomes, that is Community Safety and Provincial Treasury, and to all the six (06) Departments and three (03) entities which received Unqualified audit outcomes.

It is needless to say to the five (05) Departments and the two (02) entity that

received the Qualified audit outcomes that life cannot continue to be normal for you.

The audit outcomes show consistency and improvements in some Departments and entities, but others have regressed by comparison in the three financial years.

This forum must be able to dissect the challenges that courses this instability so that they can be urgently addressed.

Director General Nchabeleng, I am happy that the trends in the past three financial years have no adverse reports or disclaimers because gone should be the days when we continue to keep HOD's and CFO's who "fails the grade" because by not receiving an unqualified audit report at a least, you have simply "failed the grade" and unfortunately Limpopo has no longer a place for low achievers.

At these level of senior management, our administration should have experts and high achievers only. If it means that we must sleep in courts to rid delinquents off our Provincial Administration, at least let's do that, the people of Limpopo, who are beneficiaries and sole shareholders of our administration will thank us for saving their government.

For us to achieve some of these objectives of excellence in public service, we need to open our eyes and realise the human capital that exist within our hard working middle management and lower administrative staff.

We tend to search far and leave the best we have in our system. We seldom not recognise their efforts by creating an enabling environment for upward mobility for them, hence we lose many to other sectors and platforms. And as we tap into their skills and expertise, let us equally recognize and reward their contributions.

Our performance appraisals must not be used punish and demoralise our staff. The process must indeed assist us to retain and motivate staff to work harder and smarter.

Programme Director, I am happy to note that our cumulative compliance rate in terms of the payment of invoices within 30 days stands at 86.55% in the 1st quarter, with most of our Departments individually performing above 90% and the lowest at 67.27%.

These statistics are comforting because they show that despite the economic difficulties our country and the province are facing, we continue to make-due with

the little we have.

Let us keep up this performance to ensure that no small or micro economic enterprise closes its doors or laydown its workers because of us.

On the other hand, the fact that as a Province we have 37 transaction amounting to R2.2 billion which are submitted for condonation to National Treasury makes me have sleepless nights as MEC for Treasury.

At face value and in a lay-man's term it means that each of the 13 of our Departments have a minimum of two (02) transaction amounting to R59 459 460 –00 which must be condoned.

I am raising this as blatant and lame as it is so that we can realise the dangers of lack of consequence management for maladministration and wasteful expenditures.

DG Ncabeleng maybe I need to raise it with the Honourable Premier and EXCO that yourself, HOD's, and CEO's must be expelled for failing to discipline financial wrongdoers in our Administration. One rand is too many to be lost, misappropriated, or maladministered.

These delays service delivery and denies our people their well-deserved employment and empowerment opportunities.

Let me conclude Programme Director, Ladies & Gentlemen by using the parable of the lost sheep: It is about a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one which is lost.

The moral of this parable is that the sheep that had been lost was now found and saved because of what the Good Shepherd did for it. It was rescued from all harm.

I am using this parable to implore upon all who received good audit outcomes administrative accolades that your good works is not complete until all other Departments and entities receives good accounting outcomes as well.

I beseech you to take advantage of the many possibilities brought by technology to assist other ailing Departments and entities out of harm.

Limpopo is one Provincial Administration and the success of one of its organs must be seen in all.

Of course, the five plus two Departments and entities must never again find themselves in that adverse position for as long as you remain DG, HOD's,

CEO's, CFO's and senior managers of our Provincial Administration.

Let us all pull every burliness in us to make public service work better for our people, as well as making public service a centre of administrative excellence.

I wish you fruitful engagement and a productive summit.

Ke a Leboga

Inkomu