

SPEECH BY MEC FOR EDUCATION, MR. ISHMAEL KGETJEPE ON BEHALF OF LIMPOPO PREMIER DURING THE OCCASION OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL SOCIAL SECTOR DIALOGUE, HELD AT HOTEL @ TZANEEN.

24 January 2019

Programme Director, MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwane;
Colleagues from Government,
Representatives of Business,
Representatives of Labour and the community sector,
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning!

Let me start by thanking you very much for responding to our invitation to this important dialogue.

Your presence in this meeting is highly valued, and we are looking forward to your equally valued contributions.

You would know that this dialogue could not have come at a better time.

Today, more than ever before, our country and our province need an elevated voice of our social partners. We need this elevated voice as we try to build a better country for our children to inherit.

You would know that our country is today faced with a plethora of social challenges and social ills.

Our challenges include the high levels of crime, corruption, and the unaccepted levels of inequality and the haunting challenge of unemployment.

We also know that because of our inherited history of apartheid, it is mostly Africans, women and the people living with disabilities who carry the birthmarks of our social inequalities.

It is therefore the responsibility of government to lead the efforts of building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

The truth is that achieving the goals of unity, non-sexism, non-racialism and prosperity cannot be done by government alone.

What is clear is that these important goals cannot be achieved by government

acting alone. We have to work with our social partners; hence we have convened this crucial dialogue.

It is our understanding and hope that a meeting of this nature will go a long way to strengthen our efforts to build social cohesion, inclusive economy and propel us to a destination of a better life for all.

Programme Director;

I am convinced that the complexion of this dialogue is representative enough to help us arrive at resolutions which will help us move forward.

This dialogue would have betrayed its purpose if it does not speak about the challenges facing our young people. The task is to go beyond just speaking but finding durable solutions to such challenges.

We can no longer stand on the sidelines and watch helplessly as our youth get consumed by the deadly practice of substance and alcohol abuse. The time has come for the civic society to stand up and save our youth from this deadly web.

This is the time for practical and united action against the drug-lords and drug pushers in our community. Let us frog-march them out of our communities for the sake of our youth.

We also require the same action and levels of unity against those who have made it their business to abuse women and children in our communities. The government is committed to continue working with those NGOs that works with abused women and children.

The war against the abuse of women and children cannot be won without the partnership between communities, traditional leaders and other advocacy groups. Our job would not be complete if we do not also unite in support of our compatriots living with disabilities.

As government, our commitment is that we will continue to work with people living with disabilities on issues of interest to them. These issues include protection against harassment and abuse, issues relating to access to quality education and employment opportunities.

Programme Director;

In conclusion, let me reiterate the fact that we need a partnership based on clear commitments and actions by each of us.

But we cannot succeed if we rely only on government. We need a joint action and a response to our challenges.

Working together, we will be able to redirect ourselves to the task of building the economy, create jobs and fight poverty and inequality.

I thank you.