

WELCOME NOTES FOR THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO, MR. CHUPU MATHABATHA DURING THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS, HELD AT POLOKWNAE CRICKET CLUB, LIMPOPO.

16 JUNE 2019

Programme Directors, Minister Nathi Mthethwa and MEC Thandi Moraka;

Ministers and Deputy Ministers present here;

Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures;

MECs;

Executive Mayors and Mayors;

Leadership of the NYDA;

Leaders of various youth organisations;

Members of the media;

Invited guests;

The people of Limpopo;

The people of Limpopo would want me to start first by expressing their appreciation to the National Government under the distinguished leadership of President Matamela

Ramaphosa for choosing Limpopo as a host for this important national celebration.

The significance of the Youth Day cannot be over-emphasised. We are here to pay tribute to successive generations of young people who rejected oppressive and fought for our national liberation.

We pay tribute to the courageous and fearless 1976 generation of young people.

Today we are reminded of the extraordinary courage and sacrifices of the past generations of young people.

The bravery and selflessness of the 1976 Youth Generation reminded us that there is no power greater than human determination.

We are reminded that the life span of any unjust system is determined by the oppressed people themselves. It is the oppressed people who, through their actions or inactions will determine whether the oppressive system continues or is abolished.

The 1976 generation was not prepared to allow the injustices of apartheid to continue. They vowed to bring down apartheid during their lifetimes.

They were prepared to die so that you will not have to struggle against an inferior education which was designed to make you a perpetual slave in the land of your own birth.

They died so that you can no longer be restricted by draconian legislation and repressive policies in realising your full potential.

We therefore expect that the young people of today assume the same courage and determination in confronting the challenges of today.

Central amongst the challenges of today is the issues of youth unemployment, youth health and issues around the abuse of alcohol and drugs. This is a new struggle which must be fought and won by young people themselves.

As government, we are here to offer all the necessary support. Unlike the 1976 generation, you are not on your own, you have a government which cares and a government that listens.

Programme Directors

I want to say that our youth are our country's greatest resource because each and every one of you has a God given ability and talents to contribute towards our efforts to create a better life for everyone.

What you simply have to understand is that you are not a generation of 1976. You are a unique generation, most of you born after our freedom and democracy. In this way, you have your own unique set of challenges.

It was Frantz Fanon who said that “Each generation must discover its mission, fulfil it or betray it, in relative opacity.”

I know that you have defined your mission as economic freedom in your life time.

The question however is not whether you have discovered your mission; the real question is whether you have the ability and the willingness to fulfil your discovered mission.

To answer this question you must first answer another question; ‘what are the things that will make it impossible or difficult for you as a generation of young people to achieve your mission’

Once you have identified such possible impediments or obstacles you must then adopt a collective strategy to deal with such challenges.

From where we are, some of the possible obstacles to your success as a generation are the issues of alcohol and

substance abuse, teenage sex and pregnancy, laziness and the demon of easy-come.

I can assure you, that economic freedom will remain a distant dream if you do not confront these challenges head-on.

We expect you to become the touch bearers in a campaign to mobilise young people against crime and drugs.

You carry the obligation to spread the message of positive health style amongst the youth.

You must be a generation that makes education fashionable.

You must seize the opportunities that came with our freedom and democracy to equip yourselves with skills which you will use to advance the development of our country.

Without education you will not be able to seize the many opportunities that are availed to you.

Programme Director;

My twin task was simply to officially open the day's activities and to welcome all of you.

I therefore want to take this opportunity to welcome our keynote speaker, President Matamela Ramaphosa. I also wish to extend my welcome to all the Ministers and Members of Parliament who have graced this occasion.

You are all welcome to Limpopo, and you are all welcome to this edition of the National Youth Day celebration.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to declare this programme to be officially opened.

Thank you very much.