



## Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### **ADDRESS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO, AT THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE MAREETSANE POLICE STATION HELD AT MAREETSANE ON WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2019**

Programme Director, Captain Sam Tselanyane

The Minister of Police, Mr Bheki Hamilton Cele

The Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Bongani Mkongi

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho  
Motlhabane

Kgosi Motshegare, dumela mong wa mmu

All councillors present

The National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, General Kehla  
John Sitole

The Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service responsible for  
the North West, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane

All Senior Officers present

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bagaetsho dumelang.

I am indeed honoured and privileged to be part of this historic event to mark the official opening of the Mareetsane Police Station and the official handover of a mobile police unit to the Mahikeng Cluster; as part of government's effort to intensify the fight against crime and criminality as well as ensure the safety and security of every within the borders of the Republic of South Africa.

Honourable Minister, we are a province at war with itself – day in and day out, there are sporadic outbursts of violent protests; some of which are service delivery related while some are just as a result of criminal behaviour intent on creating chaos while criminality thrives.

Just this week on Monday, we heard of reported protests at Ga-Khunwana village –which is not far from where we are – wherein protesters disrupted schooling in the area, burnt tyres on a newly constructed state-of-the-art tarred road and threatened to set a newly built community library alight; if their demands are not met by the Tswaing Local Municipality.

I am mentioning this because on the same day, reports of violent protests in Ventersdorp surfaced and yesterday, it was reported that residents of Ramatlabama near Mahikeng had also blockaded roads in protest; these sporadic but seemingly coordinated protests have become a burden to the already overstretched police resources but there needs to be a solution to this kind of seemingly deliberate public disturbance programme.

Honourable Minister, your newly re-established and revitalized Crime Intelligence Division should be able to come in handy in this instance – we cannot be a province where the work of the Executive is douse off fires whereas we have CI Division to properly do their work and find the root cause or even the forces behind these protests.

About a two weeks ago, I was in Boitumelong township near Bloemhof, accompanied by a few MECs to intervene and seek a solution on the complaints in the community regarding crime, criminality and most of all, gangsterism and drugs.

At the community meeting, we had to leave the stadium for our own safety and we later learnt that this was a deliberate and pre-planned disruption because there was a concerted effort to allow gangs and gangsterism to rule supreme in the area by some community leaders and to an extent, elected public office bearers.

We cannot be a government that is unable to root out gangsterism and crime in areas like Bloemhof; it cannot be that we cannot be able to share the same anti-gang unit's resources with the Cape Flats, the northern suburbs of Port Elizabeth and other gang infested areas.

Honourable Minister, we would like to appeal to you to look into the Bloemhof matter as urgently as possible and deploy the necessary resources to quell the scourge of gangsterism while Crime Intelligence does the necessary work.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are today opening a police station in a predominantly rural area and this should be a milestone for the people of Mareetsane, nearby villages and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District; whom I believe and hope that they will use the police station to its full capacity.

There is a lot of subsistence farming in this part of the country, Honourable Minister, and this leads to the ever increasing problem of stock theft as one of the main criminal activities taking place here and in the nearby villages – we hope with the opening of this police station, resources will have been made

available to intensify the battle against stock thefts and all other crimes that might be occurring here.

In conclusion, the North West Provincial Government is more than ready to work hand in hand with the South African Police Service to make this country a much better and safer place to live in.

I thank you.

Ends