

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB
MOKGORO, AT THE DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT PRAYER SERVICE HELD IN
MATLOSANA ON FRIDAY, 08 MARCH 2019**

Programme Director,

The Executive Mayor of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Barei
Mosiane-Segotso,

The Executive Mayor of the City of Matlosana, Cllr Maitu Kgaile,

Members of the clergy,

Leaders of various religious denominations,

Representatives of faith based organisations,

Baagi ba Matlosana

Citizens of the North West Province

Dumelang Bagaetsho.

Like we have been doing in all the other districts of our beloved province, we are all gathered here today with the sole intention of praying for moral renewal, moral regeneration, peace, stability, unity and reconciliation in the North West – as a responsible government and a responsible people.

Of lately, we have witnessed various incidents of violence and the deterioration of morality in society and our province has not been an exception to some of these foul deeds; and therefore, it is only fair that we embark on these series of district prayers to actually work towards cleansing communities and society of the lack of morality and humanity.

We are therefore called up as leaders of society, the religious fraternity, community based faith organisations as well as those that have an interest in the restoration of social values, to work towards a society that has respect for itself, has integrity and upholds high moral standards.

The Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, with the City of Matlosana in particular has and continues to witness unending incidents related to gangsterism, drug abuse, schools violence, crime and criminality in general, in the past few years and this has become a worrying factor on the side of government.

The relationship between the continuous rise in gangsterism and drugs in this area is said to be mainly fueled by the economic circumstances that most of the young people, especially men, find themselves in – that of growing up surrounded by poverty and squalor with no little or no economic opportunities in prospect for them.

Social scientists have also attributed the rise to the decline in the mainstream gold mining activities in the Vaal Reefs and Klerksdorp area; which used to be one of the highest gold producing areas in the world – therefore bringing with it a rise in unemployment and less job opportunities for young people looking for means to make a living for themselves.

However, government has put in place measures to combat gangsterism and drug peddling in our communities and the South African Police Service, together with other social partners, are hard at work in the fight against drugs

and gangsterism through the development and implementation of a multi-disciplinary Gangs and Drugs Operational Plan that seems to be yielding results with numerous arrests of wanted gangsters and drug dealers.

In addition, there is a dire need to stimulate the economy of the City of Matlosana as well as the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District through partnering with a wide range of private sector role players and identify economically sustainable initiatives aimed at creating long term employment and opportunities for our people.

A Public-Private Partnership between investors, the City of Matlosana and the North West Provincial Government has seen the much anticipated R4-billion Matlosana N12 Development take shape and it spans some 1 114 hectares on both sides of the N12 Treasure Route Corridor.

The project is situated between the mining towns of Stilfontein and Matlosana, in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality and it is a fully integrated mixed-use development.

Honourable members, the project has attracted interest from a public equity investment to the tune of R550 million for the acquisition of a 60% shareholding which is expected to assist in kick-starting the infrastructural backbone that will support investment into the area. .

The R1.2 billion catalytic Matlosana meat processing plant is another bankable opportunity soliciting for investors.

The focus of this business venture will be the slaughtering of cattle and pigs as well as the processing of red meat products.

We envisage that the plant will slaughter and process approximately 500 cattle and 1,000 pigs per day as there is an increasing demand for red meat products in South Africa, as well as abroad.

This is a government hard at work to create a climate conducive for an inclusive economy in this province; where all our people have equal opportunities to participate in the mainstream of the economy; especially the youth, women and people with disabilities.

It is through initiatives such these series of prayers throughout the North West that we hope to help one another overcome societal ills that continue to plague our communities because there is a need to self-correct as a people, province and country.

We have become a bruised and battered society that has all but lost its moral compass but that does not mean that self-cleansing is an impossible task – we are ready to tackle that demon and grow South Africa together.

Unless some of you believe that this is the kind of society we want to leave behind for our children and grandchildren; we are clear and sober in our resolve to also continue with the cleaning of our public institutions as government by rooting out corruption and all things related to it.

We need to hold hands, us and the people, in forging a way forward to a better future by ensuring that we have corruption free public institutions; we have come a long way since the advent of democracy to drop the ball 25 years later.

The time to strengthen these institutions is now and working, the dream of building a better South Africa together is becoming a reality that we should all embrace.

When we are bruised like we are as society, we tend to seek solace from two fronts – the first being the Almighty and we do that through the spiritual intercessions that are provided by the clergy and religious institutions and when confronted by crime and gangsterism, as in the case of the City of Matlosana, we seek solace in the State and its institutions such as the police.

Therefore as part of our renewal, unity and healing; we are busy strengthening and reinforcing our capacity as the State to be able to deal with the aforementioned challenges and on the 8th of May this year, let us go out in our multitudes to cast our vote, as it is our democratic right, so that we can grow South Africa together.

I am more encouraged by the responsiveness of the religious fraternity, community leaders as well as the people of this Province to these District Prayers; I am positive that we can only build from these collective, concerted efforts aimed at restoring morality in society.

I thank you.

ENDS