

**SPEAKING NOTES BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO,
AT THE DISTRICT PRAYER DAY SERVICE HELD AT MOGOGELO VILLAGE,
MORETELE ON FRIDAY 01 MARCH 2019**

Programme Director,

Members of the clergy,

Leaders of various religious denominations,

Representatives of faith based organisations,

Baagi ba Moretele

Citizens of the North West Province

Dumelang Bagaetsho.

We are all gathered here for the sole purpose 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 prayer 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.

Ladies and gentlemen, what happened to the late Thoriso Themane in Polokwane this past weekend is indicative of how low we have stooped as a nation; where an innocent 25 year old young man was brutally attacked and murdered by a bunch of teenagers while walking across a public park; simply because he did not greet them.

What is more sickening, is that after committing this foul deed, they take videos of themselves openly bragging about having murdered someone and that they know that their parents will never allow them to go to jail.

Is this the society we want to leave behind for our children and grandchildren?

Have we become a society in which teachers are afraid to go to work because of the fear of school children; a society that has failed to educate its young on the dangers of drug abuse, gangsterism and criminality?

This is indeed a sick society and there is a need for healing and renewal.

Another disturbing phenomenon is that is emerging and seems to have entrenched itself in today's South Africa and the victims seems to be the poorest of the poor; where so-called miracle pastors are preying on gullible while milking them of their hard earned money.

The mainstream and social media space has been dominated by videos and images of a Johannesburg-based Congolese pastor; who claimed to have resurrected a dead Zimbabwean man who had been in the mortuary for three

days but upon investigation, it was found that the supposed resurrection was just a hoax and a scripted act.

We should guard against such charlatans misleading our people while masquerading as men of the cloth.

However, we were encouraged by President Cyril Ramaphosa's pronouncement in Cape Town this past Wednesday, when he was holding his ***CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT*** session that the governing African National Congress has taken a decision to come up with ways and means to ***deal with bogus religious leaders that are taking our people for a ride.***

I am more encouraged by the responsiveness of the religious fraternity, community leaders as well as Dikgosi 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