SPEECH BY PREMIER JOB MOKGORO ON THE OCCASION OF INTERACTION WITH NORTH WEST PUBLIC SERVANTS AT THE MMABATHO CONVENTION CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2018

Programme Director,

Members of the Executive Council present,

Heads of Department,

Head of State entities in the Province,

Senior Managers from the Provincial Government departments,

Fellow public servants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

Let me, from the outset thank all of you for having responded positively to the invitation to come and interact with one another today.

We meet under circumstances that necessitated a gathering of this nature and magnitude – it is not every day that such happens but here we are; meeting here today to respond to the urgent needs of all the people of the North West Province.

Our people demonstrated through protests, some extremely violent leading to the destruction of public and private property in almost all major towns, townships and villages across the province – that because they are of the view

and belief that this government of theirs is no longer listening to them, serving them thus eroding any confidence they might have had in this government.

Government services came an abrupt halt and business was brought to a complete shutdown as a result.

We are hereby tasked with ensuring that we regain that confidence of our people in this government of the people, for the people, by the people and that can be achieved if we all pull in the same direction, with the same pace but with more commitment and vigour to change the lives of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, public service must be more than drawing salaries at the end of the month; it should be about doing the community a good service in an efficient, committed and honest manner; it must be a complete dedication to the people and to the growth of a nation.

I believe that there's no higher calling in terms of a career than being in the public service; it provides us with an opportunity to make a difference in ordinary people's lives and improve their livelihoods.

Former California governer, Arnold Schwarzenegger, once remarked that "..help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that

while public service improves the lives and world around you, its greatest reward is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring into your life…"

Colleagues, this democratic government has put systems in place to enable us to measure our ability to deliver quality services to the satisfaction of those intended to receive those services.

Chief amongst those measures I am referring is the Batho Pele Principles; some of which I deem critical and I will dwell a bit into them;

1. Consultation – wherein citizens are to be consulted about the level and quality of the public services they receive and, wherever possible, should be given a choice about the services that are offered
2. Service standard – where citizens should be told what level and quality of the public services to which they are entitled
3. Access – wherein all citizens should have equal access to the services to which they are entitled
4. Courtesy – which tell us as public servants that citizens should be treated with courtesy
5. Information – wherein citizens should be given full, accurate information about the public services they are entitled to receive

6. Openness and transparency – this to ensure that citizens are informed as to how national and provincial government departments are run, how much they cost, and who is in charge
7. Value for Money – this means public services should be provided economically and efficiently in order to give citizens the best possible value for money
8. Leadership and Strategic Direction – this simply alludes to the fact that good leadership is one of the most critical ingredients for any successful organisation and we are not exempted from this. Basically, all organisations, including government departments and state-owned entities as well as institutions need to be led by people who set high standards and are exemplary, have the vision to lead and have people who are properly placed through those organisations to ensure that proper, quality services are delivered to the communities that need them.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have painstakingly but deliberately gone through some of these key Batho Principles as a measure to ensure that we are all reminded of why and how we are expected to provide a better life to the people of this province.

When I was elected last month as Premier of the North West, I made a commitment to the Legislature and the people of the North West that one of the main priorities that we are seized with; will be the complete erosion of the trust deficit between our communities throughout the North West and the provincial government for the remaining time period of this 5th Provincial Administration.

This is why we need to ensure that we are exemplary as the Batho Pele Principles prescribe to achieve that single most important task of uniting the province and restore people's confidence in the ability of government to deliver quality services.

Corruption, as well as allegations thereof, should be a thing of the past and I wish to reiterate that we will not allow our government departments to become a breeding ground for corrupt activities.

Ladies and gentlemen, the party is indeed over; it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

The people of this province expect us to change their lives for the better and working together we can achieve that within the remainder of this administration's term leading to the next general elections in 2019.

We cannot be having public servants who have seemingly adopted a “don’t care attitude” leading to loitering, absconding from work without any consequences; no, we cannot afford to have that if we are to turn the fortunes of this government and its people around.

We wish to inform you that the provincial government, led by me, has welcomed the Section 100 intervention by Cabinet’s Interministerial Task Team in the province; broad consultations have been undertaken and we have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the necessary interventions.

Administrators have already been appointed to oversee the espoused interventions in some of the departments and work has begun in earnest. I wish to therefore appeal to all of you present, and your colleagues who are not present here today, to co-operate with those deployed in those department.

Colleagues, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we are able to hand over a sound and solid administration in 2019 which is not characterized by scepticism, lack of trust and accountability, allegations of rampant corruption and poor leadership.

We need to ensure that the tragic events of about two months back never occur again – it is only us as government that will give our people reasons to go back to the streets if we don't listen to them.

We have committed to ensuring clean governance, prioritise the delivery of services, a financially stable provincial government, to respond the communities' concerns relating to insufficient and ineffective delivery of services, wasteful usage of public resources, eradication of poor leadership as well as stepping up the fight against corruption so as to rebuild trust with communities; all of you are at the coal face of that revolution, let us do that with absolute distinction and that can only mean that we need to step up our service delivery game.

You are the foot soldiers of this revolution.

We are all responsible to mop up and correct the shortcomings and challenges that the InterMinisterial Task Team has identified in the provincial government identified from the various consultations that have taken place in the last two months as we work towards restoring stability in the North West.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the late former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres when he said "Public service is a privilege that must be based on a moral foundation".

I thank you.