

EULOGY BY GAUTENG PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA AT THE SPECIAL PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL FUNERAL OF NTATE PHILLIP KGOSANA. PRETORIA SHOW GROUNDS, CITY OF TSHWANE.

28 April 2017

Directors of the Programme, Comrade Jackie Seroke and MEC Faith Mazibuko;
Mme Alice Kgosana, Rakhadi Louisa, the children, grand-children and the entire bereaved family;

Bishop Stanley Mogoba, Bishop Mntambo and other leaders of the religious fraternity;

Stalwarts and Veterans of the liberation struggle from across the liberation movement and in particular, from the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania;

Members of the diplomatic community and international guests;

Sons and Daughters of the African Soil:

We are gathered here today to bid our final and befitting farewell to a great patriot, national hero and Pan Africanist par excellence who belonged to a special generation of South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so that we can achieve our independence.

The Constitution of our republic impels us to recognise the injustices of the past, honour those who suffered and sacrificed for justice and freedom in our land and respect those who have worked for to build and develop our country.

Ntate Philip Kgosana's name belongs to the roll-call of honour – the heroes and heroines who suffered and sacrificed enormously for justice and freedom in our land. Freedom was not free and those who made supreme sacrifices deserve recognition by our municipal, provincial and national government.

It is therefore fitting and proper that the President of our democratic republic has granted Ntate Philip Kgosana the honour of the special official funeral which is reserved for South Africans who have distinguished themselves in the serving our country and its people, regardless of political, religious and other affiliations.

I would like to thank President Jacob Zuma for granting the request by our Provincial Government that Ntate Philip Kgosana be honoured with a special provincial official funeral. This is a request initiated jointly by the national leadership of the PAC in conjunction with the ANC in our province.

Fellow mourners, we come here to say thank you to the family of Ntate Kgosana for his contribution to the liberation struggle and patriotic duty to the people of our country. I have come here on behalf of the government and the people of Gauteng and indeed behalf of President Jacob Zuma to express our gratitude to the family of Ntate Philip Kgosana for his life of loyal service to not only the PAC but to the oppressed and freedom-loving people of our country as a whole.

Sons and daughters of the Soil (as both Robert Sobukwe and Philip would always say), as we gather here to pay our last respect and mourn the passing of this giant of the liberation struggle in Africa and South Africa, we must make the emphatic statement that freedom was not free.

Today we bid farewell to a selfless leader who dedicated his entire life to the service of humanity and the cause of Africa. He has earned a pride of place in the roll-call of great African revolutionaries.

The iconic picture of the young Philip Kgosana leading multitudes of people in the anti-pass march in Cape Town will forever be etched in our minds. His organising skills and capacity to mobilise the masses in 1960 is the stuff that belongs to legend. This scared the hell out of the apartheid authorities.

We remember him for his bravery, disarming humility, impeccable integrity which has been described as ruthless adherence to ethics, critical mind and consistency. He never wavered in his beliefs. He never compromised in his commitment to genuine freedom for Africans.

We certainly cannot talk of Ntate Philip Kgosana without talking about those who shaped his thinking and outlook. He was deeply influenced by very exceptionally

gifted leaders of the ANC Youth League of the 1940s and his teachers. Above all, it was that distinguished Pan Africanist great thinker and African revolutionary, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, who shaped Ntate Kgosana's political thought and leadership posture.

As we bid farewell to a truly great South African, we must be humble enough to admit our mistakes and ask for forgiveness. One of the mistakes we have committed is that we have not, over the past 23 years of democracy, paid adequate attention to honouring the galaxy of heroes and heroines that participated in the various and diverse forms of struggle under the different organisations of our people.

As the Gauteng government, we would like to give full recognition to all South Africans who have suffered and sacrificed for justice and freedom and acknowledge the role of all formations that played a role in achieving our independence.

We will fully acknowledge and honour the contribution of a wide spectrum of South Africans from diverse political, ideological, religious persuasions and cultural backgrounds to the struggle for liberation. Among others, we must ensure that the exceptional contributions of Robert Sobukwe and Steve Biko to political thought and the struggle for liberation in our country are recognised and memorialised.

We have worked very well with the ANC and PAC to ensure that we commemorate the 57th anniversary of the 21 March 1960. We shall be working with the PAC leadership on the exhumation and burial of PAC cadres who were hanged and buried as paupers. They all deserve decent burials as freedom fighters and heroes of our struggle. We will work with all other parties and civil groups to honour South Africans from all walks of life, who have worked and continue to work the development of our country and its people.

Indeed Ntate Kgosana could have had this in mind when he himself in 1960 said the following: *“At this stage of our struggle we have a choice before us. Are we still prepared to be half-human beings in our fatherland or are we prepared to be citizens - men and women in a democratic non-racial South Africa...Sons and Daughters of Africa - there is a choice before us. We are either slaves or free men – that is all!”*

Fellow compatriots, as we contemplate life without our hero Ntate Kgosana, let us take to heart his words in the book he authored titled: Lest we Forget when he said; *“The liberation war against the forces of colonial occupation, racism and apartheid is over, but a new struggle for the social and economic emancipation of our people has set in...This is a more difficult and more treacherous struggle because the enemy is not clearly identifiable. Indeed sometimes it is not clear whether what appears on the political playing field is an ally, a disguised enemy or simply a mirage.”*

We in the ANC must remember that we are in government today because many people sacrificed and suffered for this freedom and democracy. If we make mistakes, we must know that we letting many people in the broader liberation movement down. If we allow corruption and state capture to destroy the credibility of the liberation movement, we feeding the racial stereotype that Africans cannot govern with integrity. If not corrected, our mistakes will also feed the stereotypical philosophical prejudice that liberation movements cannot govern, they can only fight for freedom.

We must correct our wayward ways and attend to the urgent issues and fundamental transformation. We must fulfill all the dreams and aspirations that inspired millions to join the struggle for freedom: redistribution of land to the landless; decent housing to the homeless; economic empowerment and inclusion of the majority; access to quality education and healthcare by all.

By working hard, with humility and integrity to improve the well-being of the Africans in particular and Black people in general, we shall bestow the greatest honor to many generations of freedom fighters.

Ntate Kgosana was a very pragmatic and practical man. Upon returning to the country of birth, South Africa, a country he loved so dearly that he was prepared to lay down his life for its liberation, he remained focused on uplifting his community in Winterveldt by taking part in their daily struggles. He became an invaluable asset to his community. He remained their humble servant to the end. He also became a councilor in the City of Tshwane.

Those of us who are in government can learn a lot from this humble servant of the people. He never thought he was too senior any position, for he served the people in any capacity and in any opportunity that presented itself.

As a result of his firm grounding in Christianity and as a dedicated member of the Methodist Church, Ntate Kgosana understood that religion has an important role to play in the liberation of a people. He also understood the value of religion in helping us build the society of our dreams.

As we gather here for a final farewell to our a Father, we say collectively that: *Lizalis'idinga lakho Thixo Nkosi yenyano*; Lord of Truth Fulfill Thy Promise. This is a promise of the kind of a South Africa that Ntate Kgosana and many veterans of liberation struggled envisaged and sacrifice for: truly non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous and a country free from poverty, unemployment, land hunger and corruption. This also a promise of a united Africa that is free from colonialism, neo-colonial plunder, underdevelopment, dictatorship and perennial conflict that kills millions of Africa's people.

As South Africa, we have achieved is independence. This is the reason we can honour Ntate Kgosana with an official funeral. However, it is not yet Uhuru. The struggle continues until we achieve the kind of country which expands the frontiers of human fulfillment and extends the frontiers of freedom to all aspects of life - the political, economic, social and spiritual life.

We take this opportunity, once again, to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of Ntate Kgosana, their relatives and loved ones. Your own suffering and sacrifices were not in vain. We say thank you for sharing Ntate Kgosana with our nation.

Ntate Kgosana has run a good race. He has made his contribution of which we are proud of. It is up to us to carry forward his good work.

He said about his comrade whom he honored in his autobiography, Lest We Forget, they shall not be forgotten. It is our turn to Lest We Forget: Philip Kgosana shall never be forgotten.

Robala ka kagiso Tlou!

Robala ka kgotso mo-Afrika!

Thank you.