

**LONG SERVICE AWARDS ADDRESS BY MEC GAOAGE OAGENG MOLAPISI-
MMABATHO CONVENTION CENTER -20 OCTOBER 2015**

Programme Director

HoD Mahlakoleng

Senior Managers and Managers

Officials of the Department

Families and Friends

Media Present

Bagaetsho dumelang

Let me first take this opportunity to thank all those who have put together this event of today, the thought of organising this event was a noble one. "It always seems impossible until it is done", said Tata Mandela.

It is a source of great pride for me to be standing here before you tonight just to say we are proud of you, above all we want to recognise your commitment and dedication to be a public servant. Even myself I have never worked that long like many of you but today you have inspired me. I think it is also proper that I should thank your families which I'm convinced that they have contributed immensely towards your long service in many different ways.

You remind me of a bird called an Eagle and hope you all know it. The Eagle has Seven Principles. Eagles fly alone at high altitude and not with

sparrows (common birds that we see daily) Eagles are scarce and found at the Zoo or Resorts.

The First principle of an Eagle;

Eagles fly alone at high altitude and not with Sparrows, bo-**Tswere** or other small birds. No other bird can go to the height of the eagle. When Moses went to commune with God on the mountain, he left the crowd at the foothills. You stayed away from sparrows and Ravens (small birds).

The Second principle of an eagle;

Eagles have strong vision. They have the ability to focus on something up to five kilometres away. When an eagle sites his prey, he narrows his focus on it and sets out to get it. No matter the obstacle, the eagle will not move his focus from the prey until he grabs it.

You have remained focused no matter what the obstacles; you came this far. Congratulations!

When a person is awarded or recognised in life it is not because he/she is favoured or liked but it is because of the hard work, dedication, determination and vision. A case in point, 2015 Comrade Marathon Winner Andrew Kelehe came number one and was given awards. Like an eagle he ran far away from the rest upfront alone leaving thousands of people behind him. No favour was done for him, he worked and trained hard for that.

Excellence is what South Africa needs, accordingly, excellence is not a skill, and it is an attitude. As you recognise individual's excellence today, you must surely do that with honour and dignity. The public service is a

case in point. The South African government under the leadership of President Jacob Zuma has consistently emphasised its commitment to excellence in public service and the President has been insisting upon such excellence from public servants. Service delivery is a process and not an event, it is a journey that we traverse and always striving to perfect. Service delivery is the lifeblood of our Department and we must not only do it because you are paid. Do it for the love of your people, your Department, your province and your country, and that's "patriotism"

Despite the challenges and hurdles you come across, some fall along the way and some don't even wake up but you never gave up. "Excellence is never an accident, it is the results of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skilful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities", this is according to Ralph Marston.

For those who will be receiving the awards today, Congratulations! You deserve it and let it be a habit.

To those who are here to celebrate with your colleagues, let them be the light that you will always see and inspire you. It should not be a fashion to wear beige uniform but a commitment, let it be a fashion to excel in your work. You are and inspiration to most of us, You are like Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt for forty years. Today you have reached Kanana, today is your day when we all say we Salute You! Continue to serve your people, your government, and your country.

Let's all Celebrate, be merry and enjoy your evening.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

