

Keynote Address by the Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality

18 August 2006

Event: Service Excellence Awards
Venue: Cultural Center

Program Director ,
Representatives of the Provincial Department of Health ,
Senior Managers ,
District Manager ,
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development and Members of the Portfolio Committee ,
Traditional Authorities,
Business Community and
All of you

Allow me to indicate that the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and policies on the transformation of the public service confers a mandate to public service to respond to the peoples needs by being responsive to the needs and aspirations of our people. It is therefore imperative for the department of health and welfare to recognize exceptional commitment by institutions and individuals, who are going beyond the scope of duty, promoting efficiency, and excellent service delivery. On the basis of the mandate that we receive from the constitution of our Republic it is necessary to recognize individual excellence by presenting awards for service excellence in order to encourage commitment of enhancing the quality of service that we render to our people . It came to my understanding that this program on Service Excellence Awards began earnestly in 1996 and the debut ceremony was in December 1997.

Program Director , the partnership that exist between the Department and the private sector should be maintained as many of them support this program by contributing floating trophies for different categories and each year this departmental service excellence awards takes place in an atmosphere of pride and jubilation when public servants receive this prestigious Excellence Performance Awards . It should always be understood that the main objective of this awards is to improve the public service result , quality of the public service process and innovation in the public service.

This ceremony takes place at a time when South Africa is celebrating the women's month. It is for this reason that, as we present some of you with these awards we will also be doing that in recognizing the efforts and contributions that were made by women during the struggle for our liberation. Women were always at the forefront and I am also confident that even today we will see them at the forefront. It should be understood that a ceremony of this nature is aimed at recognizing the efforts and commitment that was demonstrated by all in the social development within our district.

It is also our believe that even those that are not going to receive awards today, have also made a meaningful contribution towards the delivery of a better service to our people. Some will receive these awards today precisely because they worked with others as a team and in maintaining that team work they have provided an excellent service hence we recognize them today. Program Director it is our duty as public institutions to encourage our people to always go an extra mile when providing services to our people.

I have already alluded that this month is dedicated to women. Indeed we feel honoured to have this ceremony during this important month of our calendar This people that will be receiving this awards should accept them with pride, however the very same awards should also serve as a motivation. Your challenge is now to maintain the standard that you have set for yourselves. Program Director, I have on many occasions indicated that Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality will always associate itself with any form of a program that seeks to better the lives of our people. We should look into all possible ways of partnering with our municipality in this program so as we are able to sustain it forever.

Generally, this day belongs to the recipients of the awards and we will continue to encourage everybody to strive for this kind of achievement. However it is important for me to emphasize that, the achievement of our recipients is the achievement of all involved. You should continue to supplement each other so as to maintain and sustain the existing team work. We should always bear in mind that our responsibility is to take care of our people and we need to do that with both passion and excellency. I cannot deny the fact that you're an important pillar of our health and social development

You're entrusted with a very important responsibility of looking after our Children, Mothers, Fathers,

Sisters and Brothers. When you wake up in the morning and preparing for work you should always be in a situation wherein you're able to tell yourselves that we are going to contribute towards the better health and social welfare for our people. Program Director, I find it necessary to remind our award recipients that during the 2006 budget speech which was tabled by the minister of health Dr Manto Tshabalala – Msimang she said that "as health professionals and practitioners we should create health institutions that will be user-friendly and that we will also be proud of".

Our understanding of this statement should simply be to always strive for excellence whereas we are also able to demonstrate passion and commitment We should not be the ones that President Thabo Mbeki spoke about when he said "They come as late as possible and live as early as possible". This ladies and gentlemen was raised by the state President during his 2006 state of the nation address. Program Director, we should not forget that part of this program is to accelerate and maintain the principles of Batho Pele. I am glad that many of you today are here to be recognized for having excellently implemented batho pele principles. It is also good that your efforts were noticed and I can confidently say that you will indeed maintain the standard.

We highly value your commitment towards bettering the lives of our people. Today you're our shining stars and you will forever shine. We hope that as from today you will shine more, excel more and perform beyond everyone's expectation. You have proven that with hardwork everything is achievable. You have set an example to your colleagues. You will forever serve as a motivation; your colleagues will always look up to you. However go out there and continue to be excellent .Never forget that you still need to be more excellent . I thank you.