

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PS NGOMANE,
MPL, DURING A MEMORIAL SERVICE OF MR THOKOZANI
NTULI, THE LATE EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON, HELD
VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**

Thursday, 14 January 2021

1. Programme Director, thank you very much for this opportunity of joining you, as you **celebrate the life and pay tribute, to the late Mr Thokozani Mbhuti Ntuli.**
2. Let me start off by extending my **greeting to the bereaved Ntuli family**; the friends of the deceased; Thokozani's former fellow learners at the Vaal University of Technology; and his colleagues at the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison.
3. We converge on a sombre mood this afternoon, as we have lost a promising life of a committed public servant. The young man we are remembering this afternoon – who's promising and blossoming life was untimely cut short – **still had more to offer to his people in Mpumalanga.**
4. The late Thokozani was keen to learn more; he always wanted to acquire more knowledge, so that he could service his people better.

5. He fully subscribed to the notion that: ***Imfundvu ayikhulelwa*** – that one does not finish learning. As such, he met his untimely death whilst **pursuing a Master’s Degree in Tourism Management**. He was, indeed, the proponent of life-long learning.
6. The late **Thokozani was a true symbol of commitment**. I say this with much conviction, because when I was deployed as the MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison in August of 2016, Thokozani became the strong **inter-face between administration and the political office**.
7. He ensured that my Office, and that of the Head of Department, worked seamlessly. Through his assistance, **the team in my Office and I, were soon up-to-speed with the work of the Department**, including what needed to be done, moving forward.
8. **Such unwavering commitment, is what is required from all public servants**, so that we can speed-up the delivery of services to our people.
9. To the Ntuli Family, **you’re not alone** during this trying time of sorrow. You must take solace from the fact that, at 32 years, **Thokozani had contributed much** during his lifetime, albeit cut short.

10. As Poet, Edwin Leibfreed puts it, please accept that ***“Death is but a passing phase of Life; A change of dress, a disrobing; A birth into the unborn again; A commencing where we ended; A starting where we stopped to rest; A crossroad of Eternity; A giving up of something, to possess all things. The end of the unreal, the beginning of the real”*** – unquote.
11. **Let us not fear death**, but rather fear if the deceased had lived an inadequate life; a life during which the deceased had not contributed towards improving the lives of others.
12. Fortunately, we cannot say that about Thokozani; he **made a difference during his lifetime**; and as such, he did not depart from this world without utilising the talent he was given.
13. I strongly **believe that Thokozani never feared death**, but feared passing-on without making a valuable contribution to manhood. As the family, friends and colleagues of the deceased, we must not mourn his passing-on, but rather **celebrate his life, for he had lived it adequately**, in a short space of time.
14. Thokozani departed this world, still an employee of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, and

still committed to his work. I truly express my gratitude to him, for his sterling work ethics and contribution during his lifetime.

15. To Thokozani's family, friends and colleagues, although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, **may looking back in memory, help comfort you tomorrow.**
16. In paying tribute to the deceased, may I end by borrowing the lyrics of the late Michael Jackson's song, and I quote:
17. ***"Like a comet, blazing across the evening sky; Like a rainbow, fading in the twinkling of an eye; Shiny and sparkly, and splendidly bright; Here one day, gone one night!"***
18. ***Like the loss of sunlight on a cloudy afternoon; Like a castle built upon a sandy beach; Born to amuse, to inspire, to delight; Here one day, gone one night!***
19. ***Like a sunset dying with the rising of the moon; [Thokozani, you're] gone too soon!"***
20. ***Alwehlanga, olungehlanga!*** Be comforted!
21. May the **Soul of the departed, Rest in Eternal Peace!**

I thank you!