

**PREMIER HON MANDLA NDLOVU'S WELCOMING
REMARKRS AT THE FUNERAL OF FORMER DEPUTY
PRESIDENT DD MABUZA, 12TH OF JULY 2025 AT CITY OF
MBOMBELA MUNICIPALITY**

Co-Programme directors our very own son and daughter
of the soil, Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation, Mr Ronald Lamola and Deputy minister of
Basic Education, Dr Rejinah Mahaule

The Chief Commander of not just an ordinary army but
one of the well organised armies in Africa, His Excellency
President **Cyril Ramaphosa**

Former **President Thabo Mbeki**

Deputy President **Paul Mashatile**

Our Sister **Patience,**

Mabuza and **Mnisi** Family

Members of the Religious Fraternity

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Deputy Prime minister of Eswatini

Speaker of the National Assembly, **Thoko Didiza**

Former Mpumalanga Premier and Chairperson of NCOP,
Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane

Premiers and MECs of our Provinces

Secretary General of the ANC, **Cde Fikile Mbalula** and
all NEC Members

ANC Provincial Secretary **Cde Muzi Chirhwa** and all
PEC members

Leaders of political parties, **Cde Julius Malema** and **Cde
general Bantu Holomisa**.

Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional
Leaders and Khoisan and President of CONTRALESA,
Kgoši Mokoena

All the Leagues of the ANC

Leadership of the Alliance

Leadership of various political parties

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

DGs and all Government Officials

Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Present

Hon Members of the National and Provincial Legislatures

Your Worships Executive Mayors and all Hon Councillors

Esteemed Business People, Mr Robert Gumede and

Make Norah Fakude amongst others

ANC members and fellow Mourners

1. You are welcome. We appreciate that you have
come to share this time of grief, sorrow and mourning
with us. We are indeed helpless in the face of grief.

2. Premier Panyaza Lisufi and the PEC of Gauteng, I would like to convey my message of gratitude for being part of the starting point of the preparation for the burial of former Deputy President Mabuza. I didn't have to travel to Gauteng because you comrades were taking care of all the logistics and assisting the family. I thank you for that.
3. Today is a very sad day, there are moments where I wish I can roll back all the sadness away, today is one of those days as we bid farewell to one of our own, the son of the soil, Mr Unity, the Cat, former Premier and Provincial Chairperson of ANC in this beautiful province of Mpumalanga before being elected to the position of the Deputy President.
4. We are also gathered today to celebrate a life well lived. A loyal member of the ANC, a servant of the people, an Organiser par excellence, a unifier and a dedicated combatant of our struggle.

5. Cde DD has dedicated his life to the ANC, the people of Mpumalanga and the country at large. He will be remembered by many generations to come. He has left an indelible mark, his footprints will remain our guide as we navigate the difficult terrain of our struggle to make the lives of our people better.
6. Ten years ago when Cde DD, the cat, the hurricane was hospitalised, we prayed and requested Peter to save him for the sake of the people of Mpumalanga. Just like Dorcus, he was miraculously brought back to life. He shared congruent features with Dorcus, they are both known for their good works and charity particularly towards widows.
7. After hearing that Cde DD is no more, widows in South Africa are mourning him deeply. We don't know whether Peter will pray for him and resurrect him for the second time.
8. Former Deputy President Mabuza prioritized infrastructure development to improve the basic physical structures needed for the society to function efficiently. Beku bunya lithuli e Mpumalanga, lisa bunya namanje.

- He advocated for the eradication of farm schools and initiated the construction of seven boarding schools
- One of which is Mkhondo boarding school which I will be handing over to the community very soon.
- As a province we are starting to build the school for the blind and deaf this year.

9. As we bid farewell to former deputy president Mabuza today, we await your response Mr President as it will be an honour for us and Mabuza's legacy to have you, opening, the country's first International Food Market after liberation, which was also initiated by former deputy President Mabuza.

10. On full operationalisation, 105 000 jobs will be created at a farm level, 150 000 small scale- farmers will have access to trade their products at the market. The market will be fully operational by the end of this month.

11. As a province we are continuing in Mabuza's footsteps of ensuring that our infrastructure is well maintained and equipped to service our people.

12. As we speak, a majority of our health facilities meet the National Health care standards. While 160 clinics meet all the required health regulations and

are fully certified by the Office of the Health Standards and Compliance.

13. We are also ready to open the state-of-the-art Middelburg hospital this year, while next year we will open the Mapulaneng hospital in Bushbuckridge.

14. We welcome the minister of Health, Dr Motsoaledi's announcement on the building of our very first academic hospital in Mpumalanga. We believe this will ensure that the University of Mpumalanga has a fully-fledged faculty of medicine.

15. We also welcome the arrest of the two people suspected to be the killers of ANC deputy chairperson of Gert Sibande, Cde Manyathi. We commend the police for this work and we urge them to continue to work hard to root out criminality in our province. Bopha MEC Jacky bopha our acting PC Bopha.

16. Fellow Mourners, I am not here to address as his Excellency President Ramaphosa will deliver the eulogy. Let me take this opportunity to thank the support we received as Mpumalanga and the prompt response by the team send by the President to come and prepare for Cde DD Mabuza's burial.

17. Thank you to all ANC leaders, branches, religious leaders, members of the ANC and different political parties who were in and out of Cde Mabuza's home throughout the week to pay homage.. Thank you to the members of the media who also worked tirelessly to keep the nation abreast.

18. Let me also take this opportunity to welcome all of you to Mpumalanga, The Place of the Rising Sun. We expect maximum discipline and cooperation till the end of this service.

19. We continue to celebrate the life of one of our own, Cde DD's name is permanently engraved in the history of the struggle of Mpumalanga and South Africa at large. He remains in the hearts and minds of the masses of our people.

20. As I conclude, allow me Programme Directors to quote the wise words of Tata Nelson Mandela, when he said.

“Death is something in-evitable, when a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace. I believe I have made that effort and that is, therefore, why I will sleep for the eternity.”

21. During our last encounter with Cde DD recently, he expressed his wish to appear with me in public as a show of unity in our province. Here am I in public standing next to him, lying in his wooden house without a voice in front of the living ancestors of the African National Congress, leaders of the ANC and the people of Mpumalanga. Let his last wish be realised.

22. Let the people of Mpumalanga unite.

Thank you.