



Premiere Stanly Mathabatha

# The Primiers Adress at the Corporate Governance workshop

Facilitator of the programme, MB Tema; and PA Semenya k  
The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Cde Rudolph Phala;  
The Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Honorable Elias Nong;  
Representatives of the National Treasury  
The Auditor General, Mr Derek Strydom  
The Head of Department of Treasury, Mr. G Pratt;  
Members of various boards of entities  
Chief Executive Officers of Public Entities  
Representatives from the Institute of Internal Audit South Africa;  
Representatives from the Institute of Directors South Africa;  
Section 100 1(b) Administrators;  
Senior government Officials  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

I wish to thank you all, including MEC Phala for having started with this function in my absence because of other pressing engagements. I guess my apologies were duly conveyed.

I know it as a matter of fact that the great masses of our people in this province pray that those of us who serve as public representatives and public servants are representing and working for them.

They are hopeful that we will deliver for them an administration which is effective, efficient and responsive to the yearning of a better life for all. It is for this reason that those of you who are privileged to be delegates in this workshop cannot afford to take the work of this workshop for granted.

I am informed by the organisers of this Workshop that central to the Workshop's objective is 'to provide a deeper understanding of effective corporate governance'. I am also specifically inspired by the theme of the workshop which is "improving corporate governance for better public administration and service delivery".

This theme inspires us because it speaks to the core of our mandate both as public servants and

as public officials. It reminds us of the need to constantly oil our corporate machinery so as to improve how we render service to our people.

Ladies and gentlemen and dear delegates, The phenomenon of good corporate governance has gained lot of popularity in the recent past; this I think is owed to the devastating negative effect which results from the neglect of the ethos of good corporate governance.

Prof. David Fourier of the University of Pretoria had this to say about corporate governance "it is the trend towards greater corporate responsibility and the conduct of business within acceptable ethical standards. Transparency, accountability and openness in reporting and disclosure of information, both operational and financial, are internationally accepted to be vital to the practice of good corporate governance".

It is clear from Prof. Fourier's submission that the anti-thesis of good corporate governance is unethical behaviours such as lack of accountability, unauthorised expenditure of public resources, financial mismanagement

and wasteful expenditure of public funds.

These unethical behaviours are without doubt in sharp contrast to the Government's commitment to improve the lives of the people of South Africa through a transformed public service which is representative, coherent, transparent, efficient, effective, accountable and responsive to the needs of all.

Programme facilitator and dear delegates,

It is still fresh in our memories that no so long ago our province was faced with serious challenges of governance. To use the exact word of Minister Pravin Gordhan:

"Compounding the challenge for Limpopo (was) the large accumulation of unauthorised expenditure of up to R2.7 billion. This is attributed to financial mismanagement, wasteful expenditure and revelations that certain companies were even being paid eight times a month, a clear departure from the rules as stated in the Public Finance Management Act".

The degree of the predicament was so deep that hospitals were without medication, schools were without textbooks and public servants were faced with possibilities of not been paid.

Limpopo was almost a failed province, thanks to the failure of corporate governance.

These problems, as we all know, resulted in the central government placing five of our provincial departments under section 100 (b) of the constitution. The National Intervention as the constitution dictates was aimed at ensuring that as a province we meet established minimum standards for the rendering of services.

When we took office several months ago, we promised nothing more than the resurrection of the pillars of corporate governance. We held no doubt that the only prescription to take Limpopo out of the financial and administrative ICU was accountability, effectiveness and efficient utilisation of public resources. Today we can say with absolute certainty that the work of the National Intervention Team is almost done. The team has with the support and cooperation of the provincial executive succeeded in rescuing the five departments that were placed under administration.

We have also taken much valued lessons from the work of the team. In this regard we want to once again commit to do everything in our power to ensure that the province does not return to the situation it was in December 2011.

Programme facilitator,

Part of the things we need to do to ensure that we do not go back to the dark days I have referred to is that public service must invest in human capital development. All of us, particularly public servants must regularly have their skills enhanced so as to be able to serve our people better.

Those who drive must be exposed to latest and safest driving techniques, cleaners must be trained in latest and efficient cleaning methods, the same applies to Clerks, IT specialists, HR Practitioners so on and so forth. No one should be denied a reasonable opportunity to enhance his/her skills to serve our people better.

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Management Act  
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Related to this is the need to not only have qualified people in public service, but to have them doing the job they are qualified to do. When we misplace people we are unavoidably eroding the efficiency and competence of the public service.

Programme facilitator,

As I drive towards my conclusion I want to align myself with the contention of World Leaders at the 2005 World Summit 'that good governance is integral to economic growth, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and sustainable development'.

I wish you good luck in your deliberations and hope that the workshop will succeed in its intentions, which are of vital importance to the task of delivering services to our people.

I thank you!

## VISION

**To be the best provincial Fund Raiser, Allocator, Monitor, Manager and Evaluator of the public finance for socio-economic development in South Africa**

## MISSION

**To provide ethical, consultative and people focused services through sound financial Management, including attaining and maintaining effective financial resources management**

*"We are the best in what we do"*

**Be safe**

