

EULOGY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF TSHEPO MOTAUNG

BY BENNETT MOLOTSI

Mrs Takatso Motaung, Tshepiso, Reabetswe, Tshepahalo, Tshwanelo and Tshireletso, family members, colleagues and friends.

Sorrow fills our hearts during this sad moment, a sorrow that is deep and personal. Tshepo has silently closed the door of life and departed from us. Our lives will be empty in the areas that he had brightened for us.

Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." In one word, Tshepo was a man who gave. He gave much to his work, to ensure that the Department of IDP and PMS, which he headed, run efficiently. That is why ladies and gentlemen as we are gathered here to say goodbye to him, I would like to speak in celebration of his life. Here was a life that demands notice....a life that exemplified brilliance...a life that inspired emulation...a life that burned so that others' paths were lit.

I have known Tshepo since 2009 when I was part of the Administration team of the Municipality and later the Municipal Manager of Thabo Mofutsanyana. Tshepo was a strategic thinker, a visionary who was brilliant, innovative and creative. As such, he contributed much to the development of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality. He generously gave us his knowledge, his expertise, his skills.

Tshepo was deeply concerned with improving performance of the Municipality at all times and he was very keen to innovate. He initiated and implemented much in this field of performance management during the number of years that he was at organisation

Tshepo was living proof of how fine a person can be. He was a good boss to the people in his charge, a loving husband to his wife, and a devoted father to his children. He was also a good friend to many of us and a great colleague. The character of the life he lived might be summed up in a few words: **he was sincere, he was earnest, and he was loyal.**

As a Manager, Tshepo led his staff in such a way that he exemplified leadership. He gave energy, commitment and inspiration to his staff and to others with whom he worked. The Tshepo I remember was a happy Tshepo, one who not only was cheerful in himself but who gave much cheerfulness to others. He had a beautiful smile through his fish gap, a sense of humour and a gentle demeanour. Tshepo was bright, logical and systematic in his thinking. He was always willing to share his ideas and information; this can be attested to by the colleagues we attended the P & DM class at the WITS University. He was passionately interested in developmental matters and would advise us on a number of issues in that front. Many of us found him to be a splendid person of great intellect and big heart.

In his career as an IDP and PMS Manager, he worked with passion, integrity and energy. By his death all the people who knew him will miss a highly intelligent, vibrant individual with a rare friendliness and charm of personality. Tshepo was a genuinely warm and wonderful individual— the one we will miss greatly. Our sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that we had the privilege to know him.

It is a string of events that would have broken a lesser man. And would have been easy for Tshepo to let himself become bitter and hardened by sickness; to surrender to self- pity and regret; to retreat from public-life and live out his years in peaceful quite. No one would blame him for that.

That was not Tshepo Motaung – an ardent believer that: - **‘individual faults and frailties are no excuse to give in – and no exemption from common obligation to give of ourselves’**. Indeed Tshepo was a “Happy Warrior” – which the poet William Wordsworth spoke of when he wrote:-

- **As tempted more; more able to endure.**
- **As exposed to suffering and distress;**
- **Thence, also, more alive to tenderness**

Ladies and Gentlemen, in conclusion, I would like now to read a poem:

**Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never mean to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll make a great step forward,
And find an everlasting peace,
As our special reward.**

Mrs Motaung, Tshepiso, Reabetswe, Tshepahalo, Tshwanelo le Tshireletso our hearts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Adlai Stevenson, once the US Ambassador to the United Nations once commented about a man and his contribution: **“It is not the years in a life that counts; it is the life in the years.**

Ladies and Gentlemen Tshepo lived. We will all miss him.

May he rest in eternal peace, Goodbye?