

**ADDRESS BY THE HON. SPEAKER, MRS YN PHOSA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE LUCHEON
23 FEBRUARY 2007**

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- Programme Director; The first lady of our country, Mrs Zanele Mbeki; The Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, Mr BJ Nobunga;
 - The Honourable Premier of the Mpumalanga Province, Mr TSP Makwetla;
 - Mr K Motlanthe, Secretary General of the ANC;
 - Members of the Provincial Legislature and Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
 - Members of the National Assembly present;
 - Members of the National Council of Provinces present;
 - The Honourable Speaker of Limpopo Legislature, Dr TS Farisani, and the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Eastern Cape Legislature, Ms G. Barry;
 - Former Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislature;
 - Leaders of Political Parties present;
 - The Premier's mother Mrs Helen Makwetla;
 - My parents, Mr and Mrs Habile;
 - Former Premiers present;
 - Ms B Bam, Chairperson of the IEC; Adv. ML Mushwana, Chairperson of the Public Protector,
 - Mpumalanga Provincial Commissioner of the Police Service, Mr Afrika Khumalo; and Leaders of police and security services present;
 - Executive Mayors, Councillors and leaders in local government; Members of the House of Traditional Leaders; Director General, Heads of State Corporations and leaders in the public service;;
 - The Secretary to the Legislature Mr. Rolson Moropa and his management team; Ambassadors and High Commissioners;
 - Our main sponsors, First National Bank and Sasol;
 - Leaders of Business, labour, media, NGO's and religious groups;
 - Distinguished guests; and Ladies and gentlemen.

I am often cognisant of the fact that long speeches during lunch time are usually not palatable, so I will be brief.

Programme Director, ladies and gentlemen, today, the flight of time has once again permitted us to converge here, to officially open the 3rd Session of the 4th Legislature. This is indeed a significant event in the political calendar of the Legislature and our government in general.

The significance of this event is accentuated by your gracious presence in this Chamber today. To our guests coming from beyond the borders of our province, we therefore say, Mpumalanga is always your home away from home.

However, Programme Director, this event derives its significance from the fact that the Hon, Premier has delivered the State of the Province Address. He has indeed articulated priority areas and a complimentary programme of action, aimed, amongst other things, at intensifying the struggle against poverty as we advance to the future. All these things have to be done because "new conditions impose new requirements on government and those who conduct government".

John Maxwell, in his recent book on leadership contends that: - *"the vision may begin with one person, but it is accomplished only through the efforts of many people"*. Similarly, the vision of our government which the Premier

outlined this morning will certainly be “accomplished only through the efforts of many people”.

In this context and guided by our Constitution, the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature makes a commitment to be an active partner in the implementation of the programme of action emanating from the State of the Province Address. The Legislature certainly intends to be part of the broad front for development as we collectively address the diverse afflictions confronting our communities. We are essentially all embarked in one vessel, and we are all necessarily required to navigate it with safety and success for the sake of our province in particular and the country in general.

As we contend with challenges in these changing times, our institution like many institutions, has to adjust accordingly and yet remain firm to unchanging principles and values enshrined in our constitution. This will give us a better possibility to be even more sensitive and responsive to societal demands within the framework of our mandatory obligations.

Ladies and gentlemen, in our current quest to expand public involvement and deepen democracy, I am happy to share with you that the State of the Province Address by the

Premier was transmitted live through the use of satellite technology to the three regions of our province targeting rural communities. We also ensured that we broadcast it in 4 radio stations.

I am also delighted to announce that the Premier's State of the Province Address will be debated at the Legislature Chamber on the 27th of February, 2007 at 14h15. You are all invited to witness democracy in action.

In conclusion, the scripture reminds us that: - *"let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not"*. It is in this spirit that the Legislature commits with veneration to working, learning and serving together with all its stakeholders in further contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of our people in the province. "Let us all not be weary in well-doing"

I thank you.
