



MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MR JOE MASWANGANYI, EULOGY TO THE LATE MR SANDILE MSIBI, THE HOD OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT IN THE FREE STATE DURING HIS FUNERAL SERVICE AT PARYS, FREE STATE

04 January 2018

The Msibi Family;
Premier of the Free State and ANC Secretary General, Mr Ace Magashule;
Ministers Present;
Deputy Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga and other Deputy Ministers;
MEC for Police, Roads and Transport in the Free State, Mr Sam Mashinini;
Other MECs Present;
Executive Mayors and Mayors;
Councillors;
Traditional leaders;
Transport Entities and SOEs
Leadership of the ANC, the ANC WL and ANCYL
Faith Based Leaders from various denominations;
Officials from all spheres of government;
Police and Traffic Chiefs;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and gentlemen

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to our comrade, friend and colleague, Mr Sandile Msibi.

As friends we are deeply saddened by his untimely death. As colleagues, since his illness, we have felt his absence in the team transport fraternity and now that he has left this world, we will miss his contribution immensely.

Being a leader, a revolutionary and a philanthropist in his own right, It is moment like this that we should learn from his experience and drawn lessons to assist us to navigate the economic challenges confronting South Africa as we move together towards the implementation of the radical socio-economic transformation of our country as resolved in the ANC National Conference recently held.

We need to ask ourselves what is it that made Sandile Msibi stand out? What makes him tower head and shoulders above some people who are in positions of leadership?

The answers are to be found in his personality, conduct and his love for the people of South Africa.

In one of the closed meeting I held with Mr Msibi and MEC Mashinini, they drove all the way to Pretoria to bring the plight of the people of the Free State for their

inclusion in the economic benefits presented by National Government through road construction in areas where SANRAL has projects.

He was as emphatic on the issues but speaking in a gentle voice, about their call for the inclusion of local contractors and SMME's in the procurement of goods and services and the involvement of local companies as main companies.

All along, he appeared to me as a shy person but I later discovered that he was actually respectful in his engagements. He was ethical, he had integrity and his conduct and behaviour was the product of deeply ingrained principles and values.

He was a consummate strategist and tactician, a visionary who understood the importance of communication and change.

Through his vision he clearly understood that the survival of the ANC led government, under the new circumstances, was that it should embrace change and formulate new strategies and tactics that meet the requirements and the demands of the new conditions we find ourselves.

But, above all, he was a committed, dedicated and selfless servant of the people of South Africa.

Mr Msibi was amongst the team of cadres, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we reduce carnages on our roads and working together with his colleagues.

He was a leading figure who brought relative stability to the South Africa-Lesotho taxi operations challenges.

He belonged to a team of HODs, who would work diligently to find permanent solutions to the catastrophic road carnages in our country.

He served amongst other the Committee of Transport Officials (COTO) which is a forum of Provincial HODs responsible for Roads, Transport and Traffic chaired by the DG of the National Department of Transport.

This body of experts provides technical support to both Minmec and the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) Shareholders Committee, chaired by the Minister of Transport.

Under Msibi's leadership, during the 2017 preliminary Easter period statistics, the Free State recorded a 27% decline in fatalities from 11 fatalities in 2016 to only 8, whilst fatalities increased in all provinces.

He also led the Department during the launch of the Free State Launch of the October Transport Month when the province unveiled the newly bought eighty (80) new traffic vehicles in preparations for the festive season.

Msibi also served as members of the Harrismith Logistics Hub and Durban-Free State-Gauteng Logistics and Industrial Corridor Steering Committee. These projects

are Strategic Integrated Projects, coordinated through the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC).

As I dip my head in his honour, I want to do this thinking of the multitudes of South Africans who were touched by his love for this country through his work.

He will be remembered as a friend, a comrade, an administrator, an organiser, a working class activist, a support structure, an ANC activist, a hero in his own right.

Ladies and gentlemen, whilst Sandile Msibi journey on this earth has ended in the physical sense, our own journey continues.

We have to continue building the type of society he worked vigorously to construct. We have to take his legacy forward.

In doing so, we will continue drawing lessons from his very rich and extraordinary life.

We will always remember him as a man of integrity who embodied the values and principles that the ANC government upholds.

These are: unity, selflessness, sacrifice, collective leadership, humility, honesty, discipline, hard work and mutual respect.

We should promote these values and practise them, in order to build the type of society he wanted.

Today, we are therefore challenged to take forward the promotion of an improved quality of life for all in order to reverse the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

We should pledge to take his vision forward for good schools and hospitals, quality housing and utilities, decent jobs and working conditions as well as efficient and accountable public services.

For Mr Sandile Msibi, we will miss his smile, his laughter, his love and his leadership.

We will indeed cherish every moment have spent with him.

On a personal level, I would like to send my heart-felt sympathies to his entire family.

Your loss is our loss, and we mourn with you on this very sad day.

We wish you strength and love during this difficult time.

I thank you