

Eulogy by His Worship Cllr. Momelezi Mbedla at the Funeral Service of the late Traffic Officer, Mr Don McKenzie

05 November 2016

**The McKenzie family
The Speaker of Council
Chief Whip
EXCO Members
Fellow Councillors
Distinguished guests from other Municipalities
Law Enforcement Officials
Government Departments present here today
Management and staff
Religious Leaders
Fellow Mourners,**

We have gathered here today during the disability month, to pay our last respects and bid farewell to one of the finest employees who worked with dedication to protect the people of Matatiele - not only Matatiele residents but visitors & tourists who are, on a daily basis visiting our Municipality.

The horrific tragedy in the late hours of Friday, the 28th of October, robbed us of this extra-ordinary son of Matatiele and of South Africa.

His passing was sudden, tragic and shocking. We once again extend our deepest condolences to the McKenzie family.

This incident has brought about a serious pain to the Municipality. The patriot we are laying to rest here today was admired and respected by many. He was a simple and humble guy with profound wisdom.

As we unite in grief, we do so truly proud to celebrate the glorious life of this distinguished traffic officer and loyal servant of our people.

We are proud to be able to say that we live in a place that is a much better place to live in than before 1994, because of the foundation laid by this illustrious men - whose dedication to this Municipality and its people remain remarkable and inspirational.

Mourners,

As one of the Traffic Officer recruits of 2013, General Mr McKenzie proved to be a selfless and courageous young man. It is sad indeed that his race was cut short.

He became a reliable officer and employee, at the best and the worst of times. This officer has been unquestionably a loyalty and committed servant of the people for over 10 years.

He was able to lead, inspire and encourage other officers and prepare them for difficult missions, informed by a clear objective – to free Matatiele from the yoke of lawlessness on the roads.

Given his experience, expertise and clarity with regards to the type of society we wanted to see, Don was called upon to attend a course in Traffic Management in Port Elizabeth in 2013.

Today, we have a Public Safety Unit that is making significant contributions to peace-making and peace-building in the Municipality. We are pleased that Mr McKenzie continued to contribute to the work of the Municipality beyond reach.

He had good plans about taking the department and the public service forward, and we all have a responsibility to take his vision forward.

Colleagues,

The primary mission of Mr McKenzie and all our law enforcement officials, had been to achieve a free, safe, united, democratic, non-sexist, non-racial and flourishing society. As we gather here today, we all have a responsibility to continue pushing forward, doing this in his remembrance.

We've had many achievements in the past 22 years as Matatiele working together, but our work is not yet completed. The society we are striving towards is outlined unambiguously in the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of the Republic.

It is further articulated in the National Development Plan, a socio-economic blueprint we have developed and committed ourselves to implementing effectively. We continue to strive for a free, safe, united and prosperous society.

Therefore, taking a leaf from Mr McKenzie's life of selflessness, patriotism and loyalty to our society, we will not be deterred in our struggle to liberate our beautiful Municipality from different forms of deprivation and inequality.

We shall continue building a society where all have access to basic needs that improve their living conditions – public safety, water, electricity, sanitation, decent shelter, good roads as well as fully functional schools and hospitals.

More importantly, we should also, in his memory and many other heroes and heroines, continue to build a united Municipality. An environment where every citizen feels a sense of belonging and in which they have hope for a better future.

Friends,

We have received countless messages from all corners of the country expressing pain and loss and paying tribute to Mr McKenzie.

...just to quote one of the Facebook messages;

“We learned so much from Don. We were inspired by his sharp mind and hard work. He was so kind and warm to all staff members of all levels. We are devastated at his untimely passing. He was an empowering and an inspirational individual. He let his work speak for itself and shied away from glory and praise. Such humility and grace! We are in deep pain. May his soul rest in peace”.

We call upon our SAPS section to ensure that the perpetrators face justice, and we are certain this will happen as promised by the Station Commander of Matatiele Cnl. Ngame during the memorial service. We echo his appeal to you people of Sweet Matat, to be patient and not be tempted to take the law into your own hands.

We trust our justice system and are indeed convinced that God will make His face shine upon us and give us peace.

We also call upon those who are remaining behind not to shy away from confronting those who are breaking the law. We are committed to the enhancement of our Traffic Officer's safety. And as already planned, we shall be making improvements in our CCTV cameras.

Death should not be proud. Mr McKenzie has left a permanent stamped in the history of our Municipality. We will always remember his selfless sacrifice to make Matatiele a better place.

We will always remember his humour, patience and caring nature. We thank the McKenzie family for sharing such a wonderful life with us. Thank you for allowing him to serve his people and country...Tshedisehang! Duduzekani, akwehlanga lungehli.

Robala ka Kgotso! Lala ngoxolo qhawe lamaqhawe!

Senatla sa Dinatla, Sekwankwetla sa Dikwankwetla!

You have run your race; you have fought a good fight. You can now rest in eternal peace.

God bless Matatiele Local Municipality.

God bless South Africa.

I thank you.