

**BRIEFING NOTES FOR HON. MEC MXOLISA SOKATSHA ON THE
OCASSION OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE MR.
CLEMENT TSHIAMO PITSO**

Wednesday, 1 February 2017

Programme Director/HOD,

Senior Managers and staff present,

Family, relatives and friends of the bereaved,

Good afternoon, Goeie middag!

Just more than a month ago we celebrated Christmas with our family and close friends. None of us thought that we will gather on this day to share memoirs of the late Clement Tshiamo Pitso. We may feel he was taken away from us without any warning or sign. For all of us: He has gone too soon. As human beings we know our mortal fate, we know that someday we will die, but on the contrary when it happens it remains a shock. Man can never be accustomed to the hurt and the pain inflicted of losing a loved one no matter how many times we walk down this road. The loss of Mr. Pitso, has been a loss for all in this department, we have lost a mentor, a leader and a comrade. Time came to an end for Mr. Pitso and we will no longer be able to benefit from his skills, knowledge and insight.

HIS WORK LIFE

Mr. Pitso worked for the Department of Education as an Educator since 1st July 1996 till 30th April 2005. He joined the then Department of Transport, Roads and Public Works as an Engineer on 1st May 2005 till 15th December 2005 where after he accepted a post at the Phokwane Municipality. During 2011 he was successfully appointed at the Department of Roads and Public Works as District Manager of the Frances Baard District Office on 1st August 2011 and his last date of service delivery to the department

and members of the public was on Friday, 22 January 2017, thereafter we lost him due to a fatal car accident.

Mr. Pitso was known for his good dress sense. He was not just a beaurocrat; but he was a revolutionary beaurocrat who cared about his country and his people. He clearly understood the triple resting upon our people; i.e.: poverty, unemployment and inequality.

General George C. Marshall (architect and advocate of the 'Marshall Plan') uttered the following words on the 5th June 1947 *"Our policy is directed not against our country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos."*

He is a man of stature, class and substance. He was known as a go-getter, and believed in serving his community. As public servants we worked together as a unified workforce to fight poverty, create jobs and maintain infrastructure in our marginalized communities. Mr. Pitso was a shareholder in ensuring that the department delivers on its mandate. He served where his work was both tear breaking for happiness and sorrow, what a Just like us he is a human being created in the likeness of God and part of his purpose in life was to touch another in whatever way. We will remember him, for God loved him as much as he loved us all. The knowledge and seeds sowed by him will forever be in our hearts and this will serve as our guidelines to better ourselves and be true to ourselves.

Today everyone has suffered a great loss, anguish and pain. The future might look bleak, but I want to leave you with the words of Reverend Jesse Jackson:

"Suffering breeds character, character breeds faith. In the end faith will not disappoint."

Our late Tata Nelson Mandela had the following words to say about Walter Sisulu. *"What counts in life is not the fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of life we led."*

Rolihlahla further console the Buthelezi's (Irene Buthelezi) on the death of their daughter:

"Death is a frightful disaster no matter what the cause and the age of the person"
(Written from Robben Island).

MESSAGE TO THE FAMILY

Family, friends and relatives of the bereaved allow me to console and encourage the family; I quote the following scripture from the Bible:

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10

To the Pitso-family and friends, be strong, it is in Him that we find our being and that we obtain inner peace.

MESSAGE TO THE STAFF

To the staff and close friends, let us support each other through this difficult time. Now is the time to live right with each other, we do not know who will be next. Let us work on our human relations, forgive one another when we fail or falter.

CONCLUSSION

Allow me to conclude by saying:

Ntate Clement Tshiamo Pitso, your work on earth is done.

You are no more, may your soul rest in peace.

Thank you for memories and time shared together.

We will meet on the other side.

Farewell, farewell.
