

**TRIBUTE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA, DURING THE  
MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE TSHEPO MOTAUNG**

08 January 2013

Ho lelapa la Motaung

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi

Makhanselara, Baruti, Basebetsi, Bomme le Bontate

Ke ka maswabi a maholo le kutlwelo-bohloko ke emang sebakeng sena ho fetisa mantswe a matshediso a senang moedi ho lelapa la ha Motaung, ho makhanselara le basebetsi ba Thabo Mofutsanyana le bohle ba bileng haufi le Tshepo Motaung ekasitana le bohle ba mo tsebileng.

Leha polelo e tlwaelehileng e re: “Lefu ke ngwetsi ya malapa wohle” empa lefu le thata le boima ha le tlwaelehele. Pihleng ya lefu e bohloko e ya hlaba. E hlaba jwaleka tsenene e motsu o ntjhotjho pelong ya motho. Ho bile jwalo pelong tsa rona bohle ha pihleng ena e fihla hore Tshepo Motaung o se a re siile. Mme kajeno ha e le mona letsatsi le se le phirimetse lelapa la ha Motaung le lelapa la Thabo Mofutsanyana re itshedisa ka mantswe a tswang Bukeng ya Dibuka a reng: “Modimo o ne a neile mme o boetse o latile. Ha le bokwe lebitso la hae”.

Programme Director, on a fateful occasion such as this, the best words to sum up our seething pain and deepest sorrow are; “What a sad loss!” Verily, verily “What a sad loss!” And indeed “What a sad loss”.

It has been such a sad moment ever since the day we received the news of the death of our colleague and friend. On a day when we should have danced and ululated with joy in celebrating the dawning of the new year, 2014, our joy turned into mourning and our ululations turned into tears.

As the curtain closed down on 2013, so it happened to the life of the son of the soil, Tshepo Alexius Motaung. And, today we have to accept and believe that this is nothing but the truth – Tshepo Alexius Motaung is no more.

Words cannot sufficiently express our pain and sorrow at the moment such as this of the passing on of such an erudite, shrewd and steadfast official of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Council, suffice to reiterate the words of poet John Donne in his poem as he said:

*Death be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so,  
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill me.*

.....

*One short sleepe past, wee wake eternally,  
And Death shall be no more, death thou shalt die!*

We also find solace in the words of the song *"It is well with my soul"* with one verse saying:

*"When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul."*

At this moment and hour, we pray that the Lord may hear our supplications and help us all to make peace with ourselves with all serenity and composure saying "It is well, it is well, with my soul".

Programme Director, although our hearts are still saddened by the loss of our dear colleague, brother, friend, son and dedicated worker, our mourning is at the same time a moment of celebration. It is a moment of celebrating the life and times of Tshepo Alexius Motaung. We are so grateful for God to have blessed the family of Motaung and all of us with such a rare and unique gift.

It has been such a great pleasure to have worked with Tshepo as the Manager of Intergrated Development Plan, which is actually a political programme to fulfil our electorate's mandate and to address the core of our constituencies, who are the ordinary men and women of our district.

Bohle botsamaisi ba Thabo Mofutsanyana re dipaki hore Tshepo ebile mosebetsi wa masepala ya hlwahlwa ya itetseng ya tsebang mosebetsi wa hae a bileng a sa tswafeng ho sesa masiu a tshwarahane le mosebetsi. O ne a sa kgathalle hore ke nakong mang bosiu empa di-email di tla be di kena tse tswang ho yena tsa mosebetsi wa hae le tse batlang mosebetsi ho batho ba fapaneng.

Each one of us here as Councillors and workers of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality know it very well that Tshepo was a workhorse and a toiler. At times he would just spend an hour in the office, but within that hour he shall have produced a comprehensive document or accomplished a major task.

His passion for his work was always evident and an action never to be ignored as he would pester all concerned even in the night to ensure the work is absolute and that the municipality succeeds in its plans to deliver on its priorities. This was also evident when he made commitment that even when on sick leave he would still continue doing his work, and at times he would even complete his work first and then rush to the doctor or hospital for his treatment.

It is people or civil servants like Tshepo Motaung, who would never claim easy victories as one of the African political leaders, Amilcar Cabral, warned us to never deceive ourselves by claiming victories at the expenses of others, while we ourselves do not work hard, when

he said: “.....Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories.”

Programme Director, talkative but yet humble and respectful. Jolly but yet firm and astute. Insightful, knowledgeable and clever. A people’s person. A loyal servant. A true friend. A gallant fighter. These are some of the words I can use in a nutshell to describe the personality of Tshepo Alexius Motaung, as I also bid him farewell.

Although he is no more, but his spirit will always be amongst us.

Although he is no more, but his good works shall never be erased in the archives of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality and even in the books of history.

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, ke qetella ka thapedi ho Ntate Modimo hore e se eka a ka phumula meokgo yohle e keketlang marameng ya ba lelapa la Motaung le bohle basebetsi le baetapele ba Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana. Ha moya wa hae o robale ka kgotso. Re tla dula re mo hopola kamehla.

Ke ya leboha.