

**GENERAL SECRETARY 'S ADDRESS TO THE
LAUNCHING SESSION OF THE NORTH WEST
PROVINCIAL YOUTH BRIGADE, ON 01 NOVEMBER
2019, AT SHEER WALK LEISURE LODGE OUTSIDE
HAMMANSKRAAL, GAUTENG PROVINCE.**

1. INTRODUCTION:

Let me thank you **Director of Proceedings** for the opportunity.

Allow me to **acknowledge** the **presence** of :

The Provincial Chairperson,

Mr MJ Seboko and his entourage in the Provincial Executive Committee,

My colleague in the NEC , who is Chairperson and Gender, Madam Conny Mathekga.

The National Youth Brigade Motions and Labour Chairperson, Mr Zulu as well the NYB Editor, Mr Lebete.

Former Provincial Chairperson, Mr Tiny Mojahi.

Chairpersons of our **Districts** and **Branches**,

together with members of their respective Executive Committees,

Our **born-frees**, the **vibrators** and **tree-shakers**, the Youth Brigade cohort in the Province,

Our distinguished guest of honour, Mr

Thulani Khumalo

Colleagues, comrades,

Ladies and gentlemen .

2. PRESENTATION

I think congratulations are in order Provincial Chairperson, as you succeeded in putting this day together, to launch the Provincial Youth Brigade

Let me register a motion of condolence to the **Gwala** family and the media both **National** and **International**, for the untimely death of a **renowned personality, journalist and political analyst** of note, **Mr Xolani Gwala**, after he succeeded a long struggle with colon cancer.

I also give you fraternal greetings from your newly elected National Executive Committee, who wished well in this gathering. The **President** and **Vice President** are in Limpopo, attending the **Education Conference**.

Today 's event marks an **epochal moment** and a **milestone** in our calendar, as we **rewrite** our history and changing the the **trajectory course** as **vanguard** of worker's rights. The Youth Brigade, as I said before, **is the first of its own kind in labour circles, not only in South Africa but the world over**. It is indeed the **right tonic** and **game-changer** for our Union. This will indeed go a long way in **dispelling** the **perception** that PEU is synonymous to old age.

We must ofcourse state with **greater sense of**

pride and **dignity** that we are today a **full century** and a **decade** in existence, which is a **feat** by any organisational standard. We are amongst greater organizations that are the **brain-child** of **Sefako Mapogo Makgato**, who contributed **immensely** in building what we call today, the African National Congress. If ever belonging to a centurion organization makes one old and irrelevant, **then we are belonging to same WhatsApp group.**

We want to **under-score** with a **greater sense** of **jubilation** and **confidence** that what we stood for as PEU, throughout our existence, has finally **resonated** and **found expression** in our **Youths**, which then certainly **guarantees our future.**

Our **Core- Values**, namely, **Professionalism**, **Integrity**, **Loyalty** and **Political non-alignment** feature us **prominently** in the league of public servants with the **rightful mental attitude** , poised to drive service delivery in this country, with outmost **diligence** and **patriotism.**

Indeed, the launching of the Youth Brigade marks the **culmination** and **fruition** of our **long cherished dream** of seeing Young teachers **swelling** our **ranks** and **files** during our shift. We thus, dare not take their presence **for granted.** We are all duty bound as old guards, to **harnes** their **exuberance** and provide them with the necessary guidance towards **ethical** and **principled leadership.** As we do so, let us teach **how think** but not

what think and when to think.

To our Youth Brigade, today's exercise, of launching the Provincial Youth Brigade must never be just a **mere ticking of box for publicity stunt** but a step towards **rebuilding and rebranding the Union**. You are duty bound as our **new brooms**, to **sweep clean**, as you endeavour to come-up with **innovative ideas** that can make **PEU a Union of choice**. Indeed, our late icon, who is the founding father our democratic order and renowned leader the World over, Tata Madiba, couldn't have put it better in one of his famous quotes " **it always seems impossible until it is done** "

As we will be electing the Provincial Youth Brigade Committee, May I appeal that we do so not only on the basis of an individual's **popularity** but also on **capacity and cabalities**. Leadership is **about service**, nothing less, nothing more.

As you will be serving, You will come to realise that the Union suddenly becomes first in you list of **competing priorities**. Always bear in mind that as the Youths, your **overarching mandate** is **recruitment** and you can only be successful in this if you become **role models** amongst your **peers** and always walk the talk and be the first to pride yourself in PEU.

Know your Union, by proxy, its **Constitution**, so that you are able to defend it. Be a **lifelong learner** and an **avid**

reader, for you become **knowledgeable**, to sharpen your **proWess** and **efficacy** , particularly on **labour issues**, for you to earn a respect amongst your peers.

One of the other objective and rationale behind the establishment of the Youth Brigade is that it must serve as a platform to develop your **leadership skills**, in order to **identify** and **drive developmental programmes** for **young teachers** and be ready to take leadership reigns , to take forward our **fundamental conviction** that Unions should remain **politically non- aligned**, to avoid **umbiguity** and **double standard** as they endeavour to **protect our basic conditions of employment**.

Ofcourse if not well managed, the Youth Brigade may degenerate into something else, and have **unintended consequences** and be **diverted** from its **fundamental objectives**.

Thus as the Youths, we must be **vigilant** and always **on the alert**, to vehemently **refuse** and **resist** any **attempt** to be used or abused s **political canon foders**, to fight **skirmish battles** for some of us, Let us refuse to be used as a mouthpiece to **raise issues** other people are **afraid to raise**, Let us refuse to be used as shields to **confront** people that some of us are **afraid to confront**.

3. CONCLUSION:

May i urge those who will be taking over the reigns to lead our Youths, you must always

be **alive** to the fact that **in your hands lies the future of this great movement.**

May I also urge you to be **original , genuine and ever conscious** as you enter into the leadership.

Always remember that leadership is about **persuasion of others to share and follow your dream and vision.**

and that successful leaders **consult widely and negotiate**, for a **buy-in** , as they endeavour **to put an opinion or idea across.**

Programme Director, for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee, i take this opportunity to declare the launching of the North West Provincial Youth Brigade officially opened.

A Modimo le Badimo ba re etelle pele!

Thobela!

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