



**TRIBUTE BY PREMIER DUKWANA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROLL CALL BY THE
FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, UPON THE DEMISE OF MEC PHI 'TATE'
MAKGOE, ON 7TH MARCH, 2023**

Madam Speaker,

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

Members of the family of our departed MEC- Pule Makgoe;

Friends and comrades of our departed MEC,

Leadership of the African National Congress;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Today marks a very sombre and painful moment for this, the People's Tribune- the Provincial Legislature and indeed all the freedom and peace – loving people of the Free State and not least, South Africa, Africa and the world.

It is a day on which we have to, with heavy and bleeding hearts, confirm the untimely and tragic demise of one of our own - the longest – serving Member on an unbroken basis, of this law- making body – MEC Pule Herbert Makgoe. From 1994, until his untimely demise on the 5th, March 2023.

Perhaps at this moment, it is apposite to declare as Voltaire would opine: “We owe respect to the living; to the dead, we owe only the truth.”

The truth of the matter Madam Speaker; Honourable Members is that, at a difficult moment such as this; true to our African cultural DNA, we demonstrate restraint in what we say, how we say it about the dead; our various perspectives about this or that matter, notwithstanding.

Even as we speak during a time like this, we do not shout or scream when we address the bereaved. We speak in low voices that confer utmost respect on the dead. Perhaps, on death itself. Allow me therefore Madam Speaker, to take this opportunity to call on all our people, to desist from saying or doing things that violate directly or indirectly, the dignity and sensibilities of families of our deceased colleague and comrade.

We are here to pay tribute as the Provincial Legislature to a friend, comrade and colleague, who unmistakably set his eyes on whatever goal he had set himself, with the view to achieving it. This he did with great verve, determination and laser – beam focus and naturally, he would carry it to its logical conclusion. In his previous roles and responsibilities as the elections manager of his party – the ANC – in the then Northern Free State, as a result of his grit and determination, the NFS region bagged awards from our ANC HQ, for an excellent performance: ranging from computers to cars.

All the while, this bore the fingerprints of Pule Herbert, Isaak Makgoe; every time, ensconced within the confines of the leadership collective which had many dedicated foot - soldiers of our cause for the triumph of the National Democratic

Revolution, in pursuit of a united, non – racial, non – sexist, democratic and prosperous South African society.

When our movement and people decided that we could go on and become people’s representatives in a body that makes laws, MEC Makgoe was part of this journey. He distinguished himself in various capacities in this august House; with the portfolios of Finance and Education respectively, being the ones in which he served longer stints of five years and almost fourteen years.

As we recall this and many great exploits of MEC Makgoe, we dare not inter his good deeds with his bones. Our education landscape was radically changed because of his singular acts of courage and outstanding foresight. Sensation and twitching he has no more. You may be in repose companero but, our undying commitment to our Constitutional values of: “human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedom, non-racialism and non-sexism” will continue to ring in every village, town, school, workplace and all places wherever our people are found.

You have run your race. You heard Che Guevara when he said: “There can be no great revolution, without a great feeling of love.” In your memory, our government will forever prioritise the education of our youth; itself a great enabler and equaliser, and break the back of inter-generational poverty.

Every sweat of your brow, every exertion of your sinews, was dedicated to the total liberation of all South Africans and humanity.

Robala kakapa. Ikotlolle kwakwariri. Qhanolla sehanyata. Botha qhoku.

