

REMARKS BY PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL OF MAMA NOMZAMO WINNIE MADIKIZELA MANDELA. ORLANDO STADIUM, SOWETO.

14 APRIL 2018

Members of the entire Mandela and Madikizela families, Sis Zenani, Sis Zindzi and all the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Mama.

Fellow mourners here at home and abroad, today our nation and the people of the world pause to pay tribute and bid a final farewell to our Mother, Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela Mandela.

On behalf of the people and government of Gauteng province, I convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of Mandela and Madikizela.

Your deep loss is also our loss as the province that shaped the politics of this fearless freedom fighter.

The passing of Mama Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela Mandela has left us with mixed emotions. We feel orphaned. We feel offended. At the same time, we also feel affirmed and lucky.

We feel orphaned because we shall miss her warm embrace, wise counsel, loyal protection and compassionate rebuke. We feel left alone and vulnerable.

Yes, we are weeping but we are not broken because we regard ourselves as a lucky generation whose lives have been touched by this colossal revolutionary and formidable political female figure of the twentieth and twenty-first century.

We feel deeply offended by manipulative narratives that tried to portray our Mother as a monster or a demon. We loved her dearly.

But we also feel affirmed that the wheels of history are turning as the truth about her legacy is bursting triumphantly and defiantly into the open for all South Africans and the world to know.

But how do we properly assess the legacy and contribution of this great icon, Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela Mandela?

Historians, writers and film makers have said many things and will continue to say much more about her life. As we examine her life, I invite us to do so in a proper perspective.

I would like to urge us to invoke, among others, the wise words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr:

“The ultimate measure of a man (person) is not where she/ he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where she/ he stands in times of challenge and controversy”.

Mama Winnie personified the true meaning of the phrase “Speaking Truth to Power” from the beginning to the end. She was never silent in times of challenge and controversy. Even as she lies here in her mortal state, she refuses to be silent.

She was the most authentic voice of the people’s war against apartheid tyranny and an unspoken advocate of the ongoing struggle for fundamental change i.e. the radical socioeconomic transformation of South Africa in line with the vision of the Freedom Charter.

As historians survey the history of our struggle over the last sixty years, it will be difficult to find another political personality who connected so deeply with various generations of the youth; who connected so organically with various generations of women; who connected so well

with the masses and echoed the fears, frustrations and aspirations of the masses as Mama Winnie did with such consistency.

Her abiding fidelity to the masses and loyalty to the ANC is quite legendary.

It is no irony of history that one of the most brutal and vicious oppressive regimes of the twentieth century, the apartheid state, could not cower her nor crush her.

Racism and patriarchy also failed to destroy her. Death has not defeated her either. Human mortality is too weak to put down the powerful voice of Winnie Madikizela Mandela.

It is truly definitive and apt to say she did not die, she has multiplied in the hearts and minds of millions of our people.

I welcome you all and wish you to have her a fighting spirit and passion for social justice and hatred for inequality. Let your hearts and actions symbolise her resistance and resilience as we continue to strive for the deeper meaning of freedom and people's democracy in our land.

This land belongs to us! South Africa belongs to all!

God Bless Africa!

Hamba kahle Mbokodo!