

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY Ms DD MASHEGO
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE
MR PETER VUSUMUZI MAMINZA
ON THE 12 AUGUST 2006**

Mphathi wohlelo

Bafundisi

His Excellency the Chief

Mdeni wakaMaminza, wakaFakudze newakaMnisi

Government servants and councillors

Members of Senior Management

Colleagues from the Education fraternity

Comrades and friends

Ngisukuma ukukhulumela iTiko LeTemfundvo lapha eMpumalanga kanye nakuzwelonke jikelele.

Umfowethu lona esizomphelekezela namuhla, uPeter, uyidlalile indima yakhe, kwezwakala cishe kuze zonke izinkalo zalelizwe. Yalala ikakaramba ye “Government Communications”

I remember how he used to assertively engage the critical media during the 1995 to 1998. a young man of impeccable

gifts of oratorship. A critical thinker and analyst of sharp precision. A lover of music.

Akumangalisi ukuthi kugcwale ngalendlela kulombuthano wukuthi sithi hamba kahle Qabane.

Kuye kwabasobala ngoLesine kumsingatho wokumkhumbula nowokuhlonipha indima ayidlalile ekwenzeni ngcono izimpilo zabantu kuleli, ukuthi uPeter uye walifaka igalelo ngendlela ebengaphezulu kulokho abesingakulindela emtwini okeleminyaka yakhe.

Ngenyanga ezayo ubezoba neminyaka engu 40 kodwa ubonakele ebuncaneni ukuthi abenenqondo ejulile emsizile ukuthi asebenzele umphakathi wakithi.

Indeed, Peter had a brain capacity that was beyond imagination. He was a true representation of the corporate image of the Department by the able manner at which he was able to pronounce government policies and programmes.

The late Peter Maminza was a social giant of high note, an easy going person who made lasting friendship with easy. One can conclude that this fallen giant was the master of networking phenomenon that benefited both those who were close to his circle of influence and the public at large.

The department of education prides itself of the role the late Peter played in ensuring that the ideals enshrined by the government of the day are accomplished and accessed by the wider public spectrum.

Indeed Comrade Peter opened the gates of learning for learners both figuratively and literally to allow disadvantaged learners of this country to flood the gates of public schools as well as institutions of higher learning.

The department of education really feels the void left by the late Peter; it is an unfathomable void that would never be filled adequately.

We attest today, that the late comrade Peter Vusumuzi Maminza was a cadre who understood his personal brief within the greater Mass Democratic Revolution. He did not only live and accomplish the ideals of the African National Congress of making the lives of people better, instead he went further to be the embodiment of what social contract means in terms of translating what an ideal public servant should be in responsive to public needs.

This legacy would live with the Department for years to come and it poses challenge to us as Departmental officials to enlive and reverberate this legacy of being a harbinger of good news to the public. What a challenge!! What a challenge comrade Peter you live behind for us to emulate.

Most of our colleagues in the Department were and are still over-stretched physically, emotionally and psychologically. I call upon all managers particularly Senior Manager to give reasonable consideration to the employees of the Department.

There is so much that is over-emphasized about lack of capacity and these utterances demoralize the workforce and heighten employee's blood pressure.

To me this is counter-productive to acclamation of South Africa being a development state.

Maminza played a pivotal role in Education, in the struggle that was led by the African National Congress and he took it upon himself to lead programmes aimed at the emancipation of the youth of this country.

Like any person, he needed a support structure. The sad thing is that we all could not comprehend some of his inner issues so that we can pull him through.

Every person does need a pillar to lean on in times of difficulty. Peter needed one and we were not there to provide leadership and if we did in any manner, that was invisible and less to save this human heritage.

In the words of our honourable MEC, Siphosezwe Masango, we must admit that to some extent we were unable to respond promptly to his call of distress, for that we are deeply sorry.

The Mpumalanga Department commits itself to support the family of the late Peter and at the same time takes this opportunity to pay homage to the family, colleagues and friends.

Kwangathi ungalala ngoxolo nokuthula Qabane!

Hamba kahle Qhawe lamaQhawe.

Ms DD Mashego

Chief Director, Systems & Planning