

Remarks by Eastern Cape MEC for Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Hon. Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane at the Inauguration of NAFCOOC President held in Engcobo on January 31, 2019.

Program Directors

Abefundisi

AbaThembu Kingdom

Mayor of Ngcobo

Former Nafcoc President Mavundle

The Brand New President of NAFCOOC

The Executive Leadership of NAFCOOC

Affiliates of NAFCOOC : BBC president

Business and Professionals

Invited Guests

Abantu base Mgwali

Media

Ladies and gentlemen

I bring you greetings from the Government of Eastern Cape. Thank you very much for inviting us to this auspicious occasion to celebrate the Inauguration of the brand new President of NAFCOOC comrade Sabelo Macingwane who has a huge responsibility on his shoulders of leading NAFCOOC to the next level. Mandibhekise kuwe ke sotheko. Yabonamake Tshezi, leadership is not an easy task and it is not for the faint hearted.

As John Maxwell puts it, everything rises and falls on leadership. Uyacebisa ke lomfo ka Maxwell ngelithi as a leader you must know the way, go the way and show the way. He further cautions

us about paranoia in a leader “ insecure leaders never develop people , they replace them ”

We trust that under your leadership NAFCOOC and more importantly its member affiliates will not feel directionless, show them the way and go the way with them. You must be ready for insults, take them on the chin, they come with the territory but remain true to your convictions. Uzushiye umzila omhle kucace uba ubukhokhele. Lo mzila ke asifuni kuwubona ngokuphucuka kobakho ubomi wedwa, sifuna uwubona ngokwaneliseka kwamalungu eNAFCOOC lana akonyulileyo. Singavi izinto ezihlasimlisa umzimba nge NAFCOOC ngexesha lobunkokheli bakho.

I think the first steps you must take as a leadership collective is to reach out to those who had a different leadership preference at your recent conference. We are aware that you are coming from a highly contested but successful 54th National Conference which you held last month in Durban.

As you would know the ANC also went through a similar 54th National Conference in 2017 which was hyped as a make or break moment by many pessimists in our country. But true to the character of the ANC which has kept this organization glued together for more than 100 years, we emerged united and committed to work hard for the renewal of our organization so that it can be intact and strong as Oliver Tambo handed it to us in 1991.

The leadership collective as led by President Cyril Ramaphosa is on the right course to build a stronger and a more united African National Congress which can focus its energy on what it was formed for, and that is to improve the lives of our people in particular the poor and marginalized.

The new leadership of NAFCOOC should take a leaf from the renewal process that we are undertaking as the ANC to mobilise all member affiliates behind it, irrespective of the leadership preferences they had at the conference. That way, not only will NAFCOOC will be able to implement the resolutions of conference seamlessly, but NAFCOOC will be strong and united and be able to contribute immensely to our clarion call of Growing South Africa together. A weaker and conflict ridden NAFCOOC will not do any good for its member affiliates and definitely it will do no good for the country.

As you all know the African National Congress launched its Manifesto for the 2019 General Elections a few weeks ago. One of the principles of our Manifesto is a desire to accelerate the transformation of our economy to open up opportunities for the black majority. At a national level, government plans to raise **R1.2 trillion** in new investments over five years and at a provincial level we plan to raise and invest **R1.1 billion** on economic development initiatives over the next 3 years.

We are working tirelessly to attract a large share of the **R1.2 trillion** that national government is working on to our province to implement mega- infrastructure projects such Mzimvubu Dam

and Project Mthombo Oil Refinery. While our own provincial resources of **R1.1 billion** will be invested in the agro-industry, sustainable energy, ocean economy, automotive, light manufacturing and tourism sectors. We are open to enter into take-off agreements with businesses that could offer us at least 100 sustainable jobs in all these sectors. Job creation is the cord that should connect us.

Our Manifesto goes further and directs us to take decisive decisions to create a conducive environment for business to thrive. These include:

- Implementing reforms in economic sectors that have the greatest potential to grow and create jobs.
- Lowering the cost of doing business in South Africa, increase productivity and improve competitiveness.
- Implementing the agreements reached at the Presidential Jobs Summit last year by boosting local demand for goods, investing more in sectors like mining, manufacturing and agriculture, and expanding export markets.
- Drawing more women, more rural people and more youth into the economy by expanding access to digital skills training to young people, by developing and supporting technological and digital start-ups, and a more concerted focus on SMMEs, cooperatives and township and village enterprises, and
- Using government's massive procurement spend to support transformation and job creation, including

allocating at least 30% of procurement spend to small businesses and cooperatives.

Programme Director we can achieve all of these provided we work with the business sector in a cordial partnership to **Grow South Africa together**. Our partnership should be founded on shared values. One of these values which we must promote is the fight against corruption in South Africa.

A few days ago, Transparency International released its Corruption Perceptions Index which ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption from a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. I was not surprised to learn that as a country we are seating at an average score of 43 down from 45 in 2017.

We cannot act surprised at these statistics, as they are now revealed for the rest of the world to see at the Judge Zondo State Capture Commission. What is said about these revelations is that many businesses in particular black owned SMMEs are deprived an opportunity to do business with government.

They are deprived because the majority of black SMMEs do not have vaults where they can take huge sums of money every month to bribe officials and politicians for government contracts. So in essence they have to fight for the crumbs that are falling from the big bribers.

This is a cancer we must fight together with organisations such as NAFCOC because it almost ate away the soul of our country.

At the heart of this cancer is greed, just pure greed and a culture of trying to get rich quick by many individuals in our society. **Abantu banentlizoyo ezindeee ezingoneliyo, abalali ebusuku bacinga okungendawo.** They even go as far as taking the life of other businessmen and women as we have learnt from a recent incident in Nelson Mandela Metro.

Our late leader Chris Thembisile Hani, prophesized about this new pattern when he said **“What I fear is that the liberators emerge as elitists who drive around in Mercedes Benz’s and use the resources of this country to live in palaces and to gather riches.”**

Wayibona isekude uTshonyane lento hence on the eve of our democracy he made it clear that for him **“the real problems of the country are not whether one is in Cabinet but what we do for social upliftment of the working masses of our country.”**

Makhe kuvuseleleke o Tshonyane kuthi ngeli lixa. Our country holds so much promise which has been undermined by a corrupt few. The ANC Manifesto commits us to intensify the fight against corruption in government, in the ANC and across society. We urge NAFCOG to join us in this fight and be part of us as we **“strive to build an inclusive economy that creates decent jobs and as we work towards a better future for our children.”**

As I descend the stage, let me extend an invitation for you to join us at the Provincial ANC Manifesto Fundraising Gala Dinner in

Mthatha on the 08th of February. Don't worry fundraising is allowed in South Africa and is a norm worldwide. It will not be misinterpreted as corruption or bribery. Come and listen to our plans for the next 5 years.

Once again we look forward to a cordial partnership with NAFCOC under the leadership of President Macingwane which would be mutually beneficial.

Mayikhule I NAFCOC Mayikhule!!! Long Live NAFCOC Long Live!!! Amandlaaaa!!!

Thank you very much and God Bless.