

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR DURING MORAL REGENERATION MOVEMENT DIALOGUE

Programme Director

MEC for Social Development, Me. Ouma Tsopo

Executive Mayor/Mayors

Speakers

Councillors

Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly honoured to have this very important occasion in the district especially at this juncture when there is unbecoming behaviour in our communities.

In 2002, the National Cabinet approved the convention of a Moral Regeneration Summit under the leadership of the then Deputy President, Jacob Zuma. The Government's aim on Moral Regeneration Movement is to make a concerted effort at rejuvenating the moral fibre of our society by building on the values envisioned in the Constitution (sec 195). These values include:

- A high standard of professional ethics.
- Efficient and economic use of resources.
- Public administration must be development-oriented.
- Services must be provided impartially, fairly, equitably and without bias.
- Peoples' needs must be responded to.
- Public administration must be accountable, etc.

This initiative emphasises the importance of the need to inculcate the values of humility, honesty and integrity as values that must promote the operations of all public service employees.

In one of his addresses on the subject, the Deputy President emphasised that the Government's role in a value strategy is to provide for just and non-partisan support to the institutions within which constitutionally ordained values can be taught.

Our greatest challenge therefore becomes how to make these values our shared values and how to make these values have real meaning to the ordinary men, women and children in their everyday lives. I have no doubt that we agree on the fundamental truth

that unless the whole society actively embrace the good, the positive and inculcate and develop mechanisms for nurturing our children and their offspring with the correct values all the evils that were characteristic of our inherited past will always be part of our society.

Any attempts to eradicate crime and all forms of immorality are an exercise in futility unless we embed within our people, youth and children the values that enable them to make the right decisions and the right choices from the outset. In other words if our people, youth and children could be endowed with wisdom to distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong, half the battle on immorality and its ramifications will have been won.

The Moral Regeneration Movement, therefore, seeks to create a framework within which we can begin to open a dialogue, entrench, teach and nurture in our children and the society as a whole a new value system. For that ideal to be realised we need functional, vibrant and dynamic institutions, individuals and groups and not broken family structures, dysfunctional institutions, immoral individuals and groups.

From the government perspective the key issues that urgently need to be addressed include the following:

- The concerns about the breakdown of family life and the weakening of family structures.
- Address high levels of poverty as it is a threat to moral regeneration.
- The issue of the youth which is discouraged in many ways, including the lack of role modelling by parents, the poor morale of teachers and the difficulty of finding jobs.
- The perceived alienation between the media and society
- Issues of religion.
- Leaders that must set the standards of morality.

Programme Director, I therefore say that structures and stakeholders should take this issue serious of course together with government. We also appeal to the youth, who is the hardest hit, be part of these processes.

I thank you