

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE HONOURABLE KWAZULU NATAL PREMIER, MR. SE MCHUNU AT  
THE FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION AT MATUBATUBA**

Programme Director  
Honorable District Mayor  
MEC, present  
MPLs  
Traditional Leaders, present  
Distinguished Guest  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. INTRODUCTION

We are celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> Freedom Day at the background of the xenophobic violence that has flared up in some parts of our province, and affected foreign nationals in Durban, Isipingo, KwaMashu and Greenwood Park. About 5 people have been reported dead since this violence began. It is very important to celebrate Freedom Day. Freedom was achieved after decades of oppression by the minority and racist regime. We attained this freedom not only as South Africans, but as part of our continent that assisted our cadres during the times when our liberation movements were banned. We must therefore, not forget that our cadres of Moses Kotane, Nelson Mandela, Jacob Zuma, Chris Hani and others were assisted by our fellow brothers and sisters in the African Continent.

Today we celebrate our Freedom Day here at Matubatuba. A rural area that still need more in terms of basic services in order for the people to feel the real freedom and democracy we are talking about. We are celebrating Freedom and Democracy in an area which does not have a proper functioning municipality due to problem you all know about. It is not a right moment to discuss about problems which led to the dissolution of this municipality. But if we ignore to give you the facts, we will not be honest to you as government.

The current situation here at Mtubatuba municipality is as follows:

- People of this area are denied of services due to continuous in-fighting amongst elected municipality representatives
- The sorry state has led to the total collapse of the municipality
- Municipality is currently under administration
- much needed services are provided because of government intervention
- this areas has alarming HIV/AIDS stats and poverty
- freedom Day still need some definition to the majority of people of this area
- it is a disgrace that in-fighting of the elected people in this municipality ended up hampering democratic rights of the people of Mtubatuba
- People of Matubatuba deserve the best, capable and democratically elected leaders.

## 2. FREEDOM DAY THEME

The theme for 2015 Freedom Day is **“Celebrating the Beginning of the Third Decade of our Freedom through Accelerating Radical Economic Transformation”**

- we have worked hard to bring about inclusive society that serves all its people
- We come a long way in addressing economic, social and cultural challenges that were created by Apartheid
- Our Freedom Day coincides with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter
- The lives of millions of our people have changed

- Our government have built schools, clinics, hospitals and rolled out massive infrastructure projects
- People have access to housing, water, sanitation and electricity
- We still have more challenges to fast track economic recovery to create jobs
- National Development Plan is the beacon of hope for prosperity of all South Africans

### 3. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FREEDOM DAY

- 27 April 1994 was the turning point and the new chapter of our country
- We have entrenched democratic values and restored human rights
- Adopted a democratic constitution which embraced human rights
- Introduced a democratic order where people choose their own government and representatives
- Brought the country back from international isolation
- Guaranteed universal franchise to all people irrespective of race and gender
- Have built a democratic nation founded on the values of human dignity, non-racialism and non-sexism
- Have developed inclusive economy that continues to show steady growth
- All South Africans can be proud of what has been achieved in the past 21 years

### 4. HAVE WE ACHIEVED ANYTHING IN THE PAST 21 YEARS

- Spirit of the Freedom Charter lives in the ideals and principles of our constitution
- We are the nation at work to improve the lives of our people
- Our constitution is the supreme law of the land
- Celebration of freedom is a constant reminder of the brutality of the Apartheid state

- We must strengthen our freedoms and protections that we enjoy under our constitution
- South Africa is a better place today than it was before 1994
- Connections that we built as a country are much stronger than barriers that divides us.
- Poverty, inequality, and unemployment is still a major challenge our country is facing
- A demon of racism and xenophobia must be defeated
- We need to work together and try to forge a common identity that is built on mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance
- We must break down artificial barriers of culture, race, and religion
- We must all be agents of change and transformation

#### 5. CONCLUSION: WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- We must safe-guard our hard won freedom
- Freedom Day must not be reduced a national braai day
- Freedom Day means to reflect the progress the country has made and contemplate about current challenges
- We need to consolidate gains of 21 years of democracy and freedom
- Jealously guard the gains of democracy and continue to build on fruits of our freedom
- Don't look aside, but participate in the change you want to see in society
- Together we must confront economic injustice
- Government will not rest until all South Africans enjoy decent and better quality of life

- All must benefit from our rich natural, economic, cultural and social resources
- We must take pride to be South Africans
- Matubatuba by-election is around the corner, and 2016 Local Government Election
- Let's make democracy work