

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO SONS OF THE SOIL

Scores of Blouberg residents and the community of Marobyane at large gathered at Hope Christian Church and Dalmyr Young Chiefs Sport grounds respectively to welcome two of their own sons whose achievements in the bigger stage are no mean feat. David Makhura, newly appointed premier of South Africa's economic hub Gauteng Province and Jerry Mosesi, ward councilor at City of Joburg's Braamfontein area were afforded a heroes' welcome when they arrived back home. The two hail from the dusty village of Marobyane about 20kms from the town of Senwabarwana and have, against all odds managed to climb the highest political ladders away from home. Among dignitaries who welcomed the duo were Mayor of Blouberg Municipality Mayor; Cllr Serite Sekgoloane and Kgoshi Abram Seakamela II of the Seakamela Tribal Authority.

Kgosi Seakamela thanked Premier Makhura and Cllr Mosesi for staying rooted and never forgetting their root. He further praised them for placing Marobyane and Blouberg at large on the map. "Marobyane was known as a farming area back in the days and people looked down upon us, but the area has now produced professionals and influential people, the farms gave birth to the Premier of one of the most influential provinces in the country", he said. Kgosi Seakamela also urged the youth to emulate the two who from humble beginnings made great strides in the province and city respectively known as the mecca of South Africa in particular and the entire globe in general.

Speaker after speaker particularly those who witnessed Makhura's childhood described him as a humble and intelligent child. Mr Makgotho, a former teacher of Makhura's and current Headmaster at local Mohlabi Primary School who taught the Premier in his formative years in the early eighties said "I saw the a bright future from a highly gifted young man (Makhura) and today everyone can see that," he said. Headmaster Makgotho further used the opportunity to call on parents to make sure that their children go to school. Another former teacher Mr Maletle who was still attached to Malusi Secondary School said Makhura initiated extramural activities during his hey days at the school.

Makhura cut his teeth in politics from early age becoming Student Representative Council (SRC) in only his maiden year as member thereof at the then University of the North (now University of Limpopo). He was later to become national President of the South African Student Congress (SASCO) immediately after amalgamation of the South African National Students Congress (SANSCO) and the liberal National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). Upon his relocation to the city of gold Makhura became the Provincial Secretary General for a record three terms, withering the storms and riding the crest of waves in the process. The feats bear testimony to his astuteness and ability to unite people from all fronts. Makhura is also an academic who is armed with a Master of Science degree which further puts a cap in his educational and political prowess.

Makhura's childhood friend Mr Jan "Jupiter" Matseba related how the two struggled during their tertiary days and that education made him (Makhura) the person he was. The Mayor Cllr Sekgoloane said Blouberg was rich with intelligence. Cllr Sekgoloane described Makhura as a unifier "He has led the African

National Congress for ten years and that means that he was a unifier, we are happy that the ANC elevated him,"he said. The Mayor also accorded Premier Makhura and Cllr Mosesi freedom of town.

In his response Premier Makhura thanked the Seakamela Tribal Authority , residents of Marobyane and Blouberg at large for welcoming them. He also praised Mr Raletjena and Mr Theka, the local businessmen for being role models despite their lack of formal education. He also thanked the ANC for grooming him and then entrusting him with a mammoth task of leading arguably Africa's richest province. He urged parents to give their children education and also pledged a personal contribution to the newly established Seakaemela Bursary fund.