



**The Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole  
Simon Mofokeng receiving the State President on the occasion of the  
burial of King Zwelithini's son in law in Midrand, Johannesburg,  
Saturday, 16 January 2010**

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Programme Director;

Honourable State President Jacob Zuma;

King Zwelithini and the family;

Distinguished guests

Friends, colleagues and comrades, we are gathered here today to bid the first son-in-law of King Goodwill Zwelithini, Prince Oupa Moilwa farewell. Today is indeed a sad day for the Moilwa Royal Clan, the royal family, the entire tribe and indeed the people that I represent.

I bring you the message of condolences from the Sedibeng District Municipality on behalf of its people and the people of Gauteng Province. The message that we believe is of hope. We are shocked and indeed saddened by the untimely death of Prince Moilwa

It is in this regard that I take this opportunity to express our most profound and sincere condolences to the bereaved Moilwa Clan, and House of the

Royal Zulu family (Isilo sa Mabandla) for the loss of the head of the family . We also wish to extend similar condolences to all his friends and colleagues

We mourn together today for his passing because we believe that we will surely be blessed and comforted, for surely Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour says "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"- "Go letlhogonolo ba Llang, gonne batla Gomodiwa". You will all agree with me when I say, there comes a time in the life of every human being, when the sun must set. And when it does, the remaining fellow human beings should not be at a loss for words to describe the life and times of the fallen Activist who is one of their own.

Among the many heritage and historic memoirs behind his name, President Zuma demonstrated his distinguished leadership capabilities, particularly by bringing peace and stability in KwaZulu-Natal, the province that was most notorious for what others referred to as "black on black violence" prior to our democratic elections in 1994.

Consequently, he was awarded with the Nelson Mandela Award for Outstanding Leadership in Washington DC, in 1998, mainly because of his leadership role as Chairperson of the ANC of the Southern Natal Region, a position he assumed at the inaugural regional conference in 1990.

This was in recognition of his immense leadership skills spanning decades that during his tenure as South Africa's Deputy President saw him assuming the role of mediator in the difficult Burundi negotiations process. In

assuming the role of mediator he was filling the great shoes of the late former Tanzanian President Julius Mwalimu Nyerere and later those of South Africa's former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Following our first national general elections in 1994, he was appointed Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, responsible for Economic Affairs and Tourism. In 1997, he was elected Deputy President of the ruling party, the ANC, and later appointed Deputy President of our country following the 1999 national general elections.

At the last ANC National Conference in 2007, he was elected President of the ruling party, the African National Congress, and later elected President of the Republic of South Africa, following the 2009 national general elections. There are many leadership roles he undertook, but due to time constraints I will not mention all of them.

A recent international poll has placed this son of the soil, the most popular president in the world ahead of President Barack Obama of the United States of America, and we agree. He who led the country through world-wide recession, the like of which we have never seen. In him as the father of this young nation, lies the hope and bright future of South Africa and the entire continent of Africa. For without his sterling leadership, agreement on climate change talks in Copenhagen would not have been possible.

With these few words, it is indeed now my honour and humble privilege to welcome and receive the State President of the Republic of South Africa on the podium, President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma. He is affectionately known by his clan names as "Nxamalala" or "Msholozzi".

I thank you!