

Programme Director, Chairperson of Public Service Commission, Advocate Sizani, colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen.

Some months ago Advocate Sizani and I attended a public event during which he casually suggested a meeting between his commission and MRM to explore synergies and areas of cooperation. To show his seriousness we finally met on 19 April 2016. The conversation resulted in the drafting of a MOU which has brought us here today.

The signing ceremony is nothing but a testimony to our mutual commitment to certain values and practices. For the benefit of these who may not know, in 2008 the MRM published its “Charter of Positive Values.” It provides a minimum basic framework for moral conduct for all our citizens irrespective of colour, creed, ideology, culture or social standing. Based on the principles of UBUNTU and partly the Constitution these 9 shared values are the antithesis of every social pathology including lawlessness, violence, dishonesty, corruption, materialism, disintegration of African family structure, substance abuse resulting in physical violence, substandard economic activity, poverty and unemployment. Their observance shall result in social cohesion, peace and prosperity.

The Charter of Positive Values includes the following:

- Respect Human Dignity and Equality
- Promote Responsible Freedom, the Rule of Law and Democracy
- Improve Material Well-being and Economic Justice
- Enhance Sound Family and Community Values
- Uphold Honesty, Integrity and Loyalty
- Ensure Harmony in Culture, Belief and Conscience
- Show Respect and Concern for all People
- Strive for Justice, Fairness and Peaceful Co-Existence
- Protect the Environment

The legislative mandate of your Commission, a Chapter 9 state institution states inter alia, promote

In our discussion we identified the training of ethical leaders as one of our priority areas of cooperation. MRM together with SALGA has undertaken to subject newly elected councillors to technical induction but to empower them with ethical skills and consciousness. Most of the problems that often lead to violent service delivery protests and murder of political rivals are based on a lack of ethical/moral consciousness. MRM has also a leadership project with the Dept of Correctional Services and some education institutions to empower youth leaders with ethical skills.

Our government has grandiose plans e.g the much vaunted NDP, developmental state, growth of the economy, clean governance. These noble objectives will succeed only to the extent that your public service machinery shares the government vision, is disciplined, efficient and conducts itself ethically.

Politicians take decisions on policy and strategy. But in the Public Service that oils the wheels of good governance. Many governments have floundered because their implementing machinery was flawed or worse discredited.

Why all the farce about ethical leadership, you may ask. Ethics is not something nice to have once we have handled economic, political and social challenges: it is the only secure foundation for a thriving nation and world.

By way of conclusion: Ethical behaviour reflects a value system that grows out of a coherent view of the world, based on equity, justice, the needs and rights of others as well as oneself, a sense of obligation to others and to society, and the legitimate needs and standards of society...

After his election as President of Nigeria in 2014, Bugaru has this to say: ...

Programme Director, this is a roundabout way of thanking anybody for honouring MRM with their presence.

Thank you.