

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE PSC AND THE MORAL REGENERATION MOVEMENT.**

**DATE: 21 JULY 2016**

**VENUE: JOHANNESBURG CIVIC CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN, JOHANNESBURG**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. It's a great honour and privilege for me to address you on this important occasion. It is important because, we are gathered here just a few days after our country and the world celebrated Mandela Day, on Monday, 18th July.
2. Let me remind you that Mandela Day *"is a global call to action for citizens of the world to take up the challenge and follow in the formidable footsteps of Madiba, a man who transformed his life, served his country and freed his people... Its objective is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better and in so doing, to build a global movement for good"*<sup>1</sup>.
3. If understood correctly, it means we should have the ability to analyze our concrete conditions, followed by what is to be done, immediately, and in the long term. This will commit us to action every day of our lives as activists and public servants.

## **LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR AN ETHICAL PUBLIC SERVICE**

4. The National Development Plan (NDP) amongst others envisions: *"A South Africa in which an empowered citizenry have the confidence and knowledge to hold public and private officials to account and in which leaders hold themselves to high ethical standards and act with integrity... This South Africa has a resilient anti-corruption system in which anti-corruption agencies have the resources, credibility and powers to investigate corruption and their investigations are acted upon"*<sup>2</sup>.
5. Our Constitution requires of the Public Service to be value driven as provided in the Constitutional values outlined in the Sections 1, 9, the Bill of Rights and the public administration values in Section 195. This means that public servants should be driven by the constitutional values and principles and an understanding of their duty to serve their fellow citizens. These include a high standard of professional ethics, effectiveness and efficiency, a responsive public service, accountability, and a development-oriented public service.
6. In addition, the Batho Pele framework commits government officials to fast track service delivery in order to put people first. It contracts public servants to the people of South Africa

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mandeladay.com/content/landing/What-is-Mandela-Day>

<sup>2</sup> National Planning Commission. National Development Plan. Page 402

to dedicate themselves with the necessary enthusiasm and drive to serving and building our country.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MANDATE**

7. The Public Service Commission's (PSC) has since its inception subscribed to the high ideals enshrined in the South African Constitution and has walked the path of the *custodian of good governance* in the South African Public Service. Its mandate includes the promotion the Constitutional values and principles governing public administration throughout the public service.
8. In the area of the promotion of a high standard of professional ethics, the PSC has published various research reports on, among others, the most common manifestations of corruption and its related risks in the Public Service, the State of Professional Ethics in the public service and on managing conflicts of interest. The PSC also promotes the Code of Conduct for the Public Service, and manages the Financial Disclosure Framework for Senior Managers in the Public Service, as well as the National Anti-Corruption Hotline.

## **MORAL REGENERATION MONTH**

9. I have also been reminded that we are also meeting during Moral Regeneration Month, the brainchild of the MRM. The Moral Regeneration Month "*is aimed at encouraging people to recommit to efforts of building communities grounded on positive values and rededicate to building a caring society in pursuit of creating lasting peace and prosperity in the country*"<sup>3</sup>.
10. The MRM in their document entitled, *Charter of Values*, commits itself to:  
  
*"A sense of social responsibility by respecting rule of law, honesty, hard work and standard of ethical decency"...*  
*"Foster transparency in government and business through timely, accessible and accurate information on all matters affecting public life"...*  
*"Ensure competent and fair management and employment practices that result in broad-based racial and gender representation"....*
11. Reading the *Charter of Values* document of the MRM jointly with the basic values and principles governing public administration and the Batho Pele Principles one will understand the need for close working relations between the PSC and the MRM.

## **PSC AND MRM RELATIONS**

12. In the spirit of strengthening relations with key stakeholders in the area of professional

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<sup>3</sup> South African Government [online]. Available on <http://www.gov.za/moral-regeneration-month-2015> accessed on 13-07-2016.

ethics, the PSC engaged with the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM). Today marks a historic moment for the PSC and the MRM as we will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will lay the basis for seeking ways to complement each other's mandates and share technical information and expertise.

13. The MoU strives to promote such ethical leadership through, amongst others, activities such as the following:
  - Hosting of promotional events promoting effective ethical leadership;
  - Holding joint organised public lectures on subjects of mutual interest; and
  - Co-sponsoring mutually beneficial public events which are beneficial to both Parties.
14. These activities will be focused on building leaders with integrity and the moral courage to deliver services in an accountable and transparent manner. Each public servant is an agent of change and, therefore, a leader in promoting the public good through serving the public in an unbiased and impartial manner and cost-effectively. This will create confidence in the Public Service.
15. The relationship between the MRM and the PSC is therefore very strategic. The relations need to be nurtured as our mandate and functions are complimentary.

## **CONCLUSION**

16. As we enter into this MoU, we hope this partnership between the PSC and the MRM will not be just a "grocery of aspirations". But rather it should be a tool through which we promote good governance and ethical leadership in our country and the public service for better quality services to be rendered.
17. In pursuit of our common goal I would want to urge all of us gathered here, borrowing from the words of Mahatma Gandhi when he said "*be the change you want to see in the world*". Ethical leadership starts with each public servant. This change starts with Director-Generals and all officials. Today, it starts with me.

I THANK YOU