

Go well, Mr Tjie

The department of Finance recently bid farewell to its Head of Department, Mr Phineas Tjie, at a well attended function in Convention Centre.

Mr Tjie, the longest serving head of department, joined the department in 1995 and built it from a five people skeletal management to a fully fledged 26 senior managers during his tenure.

Paying tribute to Mr Tjie, departmental MEC Maureen Modiselle waxed lyrical. She described him as a versatile person and pillar of strength in the department.

“What makes Mr Tjie a versatile person is that at the dawn of democracy, in 1995, there was a tug of war for his services between the DBSA, where he was then working and the north west provincial government. The province was fortunate to have had access to his skills, talents and selfless service between 1995 and now. He also played a role in constructing this department from nothing to what it is today, the best department in the province,” said Modiselle in her valediction address.

She further said Mr Tjie was a dedicated and selfless individual, who adopted an open door policy to serve people well,

“He had time for everyone and was never too busy to listen to staff”.

MEC Modiselle said she was optimistic and confident that Mr Tjie will deliver in his new position as Chief Executive Officer in the government Pension Fund Portfolio.

“I believe he is going to construct it from scratch as a stand alone public entity. We know from our experience in working with him that he will add value to whatever work situation he finds himself in” indicated Modiselle.

The director for human resource, Ms Desiree Mafulako said Mr Tjie was the most important intellectual capital the department has ever had.

“The department is losing intellectual capital and in human resource we are losing organizational memory,” she said.

The Accountant General, Mr Geo Paul said the success in the department could be attributed to the turnaround strategy introduced by Mr Tjie.

“Before there was three to four years backlogs in financial statements and closing of books. But since he took over we closed books without backlogs”.

Mr Tjie thanked staff for the commitment and support given to him during his stay.

“We succeeded because we had a team whose members are you. The success of this department is attributed to your commitment to the course. Without your commitment we would not be where we are. We achieved through your effort,” he said.

Mr Tjie said he was proud to have served and supported by “three quality conscious MEC’s” during his time as HOD.