

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE
MEC FOR FINANCE
MAUREEN MODISELLE
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NORTH WEST
PROVINCIAL ANTI CORRUPTION FORUM
01 OCTOBER 2007
AT TUSK MMABATHO

Thank you Programme Director.

Honourable Premier, Edna Molewa

Members of the Executive Council,

The Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Municipality, Cde.

Themba Gwabeni

Executive Mayor of Mafikeng, Cde. Mosa Seoposengoe

Mayors from other parts of the Province

Representatives of Political Parties

Representatives from Business

Representatives from the House of Traditional Leaders

The Acting Director-General of the Province, Mr. Solly

Bokaba

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are gathered here today ladies and gentlemen, to address one of the most pertinent and problematic issues confronting almost every society on the globe.

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democratic institutions and the rule of law, it leads to violations of human rights, it distorts markets, it erodes the quality of life, and it allows organized crime, and other threats to human security to flourish.

This evil phenomenon is found in all countries big and small, rich and poor, but, it is in the developing world that its effects are most destructive.

During the past few years the message sent by corruption has become clearer and clearer – we all know now that corruption hurts mostly the poor disproportionately, by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid.

Corruption is a key element in economic under-performance, and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development.

The need for an increased emphasis on fighting corruption is more evident today than ever before, as global corruption flows, according to the World Bank estimates, now surpasses \$1 trillion annually.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is convinced that with global efforts, governments, private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, religious organizations and most importantly, the average citizen, all have an important role to play in the fight against corruption.

It is therefore incumbent on all of us to rally behind Government in its efforts to eradicate corruption as well as fraud from amongst all facets of society.

Our gathering here today, therefore, is in line with the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; which sends a clear message that the International Community must be determined to prevent and control corruption.

Be that as it may, colleagues, it will be highly unlikely for us to succeed without a formal body to introduce a comprehensive set of standards, measures and rules that will govern our actions against corruption.

Our fight against corruption calls for preventative measures and regulatory regimes. It also calls for the criminalization of the most prevalent forms of corruption in both public and private sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the purpose for today therefore, is to ascertain how we in the North West Province, in accordance with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption can develop a new instrument to address this scourge, hence the inauguration of a Provincial Forum which will oversee activities against corruption by government and the private sector.

The inauguration of this Forum, is particularly important because from today we will be capable of handling effectively issues regarding people whose sole aim is to steal from the poor.

May I conclude by saying that, as a Member of the Executive Council responsible for “Public Finance” in the North West Province, I am privileged to have had this opportunity to articulate the aims of this Forum and we believe that it can link with other existing initiatives that have been launched in the province recently, for the necessary impact.

This forum will contribute among others, towards creating provincial consensus through the co-ordination of sectoral strategies against fraud and corruption and it will also serve to advise Government at National, Provincial and Local levels on the implementation and improvement of all the required strategies in this regard.

We also believe that this Forum will be critical in ensuring that the sharing of information on best practices relating to all sectoral anti corruption initiatives is effected.

This in short is the main initiative which we are launching today. We’ll be given more details later in the date for scrutiny and way forward.

I thank you.