

**CLOSING REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR OF ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
COUNCILOR S.W. MDABE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE MORAL REGENERATION MONTH
CLOSING CEREMONY HELD AT STANGER HIGH SCHOOL, 30 JULY 2010.**

Program Director,

Your Excellency, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa,

Minister of Arts and Culture, Mama Lulu Xingwana

Minister of Justice, Mr Jeff Hadebe,

The Premier of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize,

The Premier, of North West,

MEC of Arts and Culture KwaZulu Natal, Mama Weziwe Thusi,

Chairperson of the MRM, Baba Smangaliso Mkhathshwa,

Distinguished guests,

Well wishers,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a great honor and privilege for the people of iLembe to be the host of this very important occasion, where we conclude the month of activism on Moral Regeneration.

The selection of iLembe District Municipality to host this event reminds us as local leadership and the community at large, of a responsibility to surge ahead and emulate the value system of ubuntu, which is central to the traditional African way of life.

It can never be denied that our society lost track of essential values partly because of the apartheid regime, which eroded family values systems by forced removals, arrests and murders.

These unfortunate circumstances played a role in corroding the fabric of our society.

In retaliation, our youth were forced to engage in acts of violence, murders, robberies and in some instances disobedient.

The challenges that we are faced with today are in a way related to the history that form part of us as South African.

We have a challenge as leaders in both Government and in all sectors of our society to use our influence in renewing the moral fabric of our society.

Violence that occurs in interpersonal relations and families, drug and alcohol abuse, corruption, women and child abuses, brutal murders are an indication of the depth of the problem.

I strongly believe though, that no matter how deep the problem can be, if we all do our bit to change the status quo, we can achieve a better South Africa, which Chief Albert Luthuli envisaged.

It all begins by each and every one of us having respect for human dignity and equality and realization that *'you are... because I am. The divinity in me recognizes the divinity in you.*

In the African context good and ethical values begin by an African seeing the entire human race as extended family.

It is for this reason that we condemn violent attacks against foreign brothers and sisters by our fellow African brothers and sisters.

Tolerance for other, religions and cultures is what define the South African Nation and makes us stand out from the rest. Living side by side with other races is what makes the rainbow nation.

I know that one of the features that distinguish South African tourism from that of other countries is the very fact that we are diverse in our cultures.

Visitors are able to see the world in one country South Africa.

As a government working together with our people, we were able to transform our society into a non-sexist, non-racial and a democratic South Africa in 1994.

If we all work together again in restoration of a moral fabric, we can still achieve positive results just as how we managed to abolish apartheid.

The effects of moral regeneration can begin to show in the manner at which a civil servant relates to an elderly person queuing for a grant, it can show in the improvement of service delivery to our people, it will start to show in commitment by each and everyone of us in making a difference to those less fortunate.

Initiatives such as the Moral Regeneration Movement are an indication that as a Nation we are on the correct path towards the realization of a society, which is both peaceful and prosperous for a better future for all.

I thank you,