



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, NKOSI PHATHEKILE HOLOMISA  
(AH! DILIZINTABA), MP, ON THE OCCASION OF IMBIZO IN  
MAKHADO, LIMPOPO, ON 28 FEBRUARY 2020**

Programme Director

His Majesty King Tony Mphephu Ramabulana-Ramabulana

His Royal Highness Vho Thovhele Mazwiwa

All Traditional Leaders gracing this event with their royal presence

Executive Mayor of Vhembe District, Cllr. Dowelani

His Worship, the Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr. Munyai

Senior Managers of Correctional Services and sister Departments

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning. Mulalo!

In recent days, the country has understandably been subjected to much criticism about the state of our parole system, following the murder of

Tazne van Wyk, of Elsies River, Cape Town, only eight-years-old, reportedly by a parolee identified as Moyhdian Pangkaker.

This unfortunate incident has the community and the nation at large crying out for a victim-centred justice system. Needless to say, this terrible incident has shone a light on the Department of Correctional Services and its service offerings. We need to brace ourselves and work even harder. This does not mean, our systems have collapsed not - by any means, no! Some of you will know of the adage, “One rotten potato spoils the contents of the whole bag”.

The Department of Correctional Services has acknowledged that it has to do more to promote and enforce restorative justice. Hence, justice should never be something removed from individuals, families and communities, affected or harmed by crime. Ladies and gentlemen, this proves one more time that a more open and engaged process will give people the grounds for greater confidence in the criminal justice system.

Programme Director, perhaps, it will be opportune to state that the responsibility of the Department of Correctional Services is not merely to keep individuals out of circulation in society through enforcing sentences meted out by the courts. But first, and foremost, we have a duty to correct offending behaviour in a safe and secure environment. Furthermore, Correctional Services is entrusted to render sound and relevant rehabilitation programmes.

However, we must be frank and confront the reality that managing a correctional facility is no child’s play. It is a very challenging job that needs personal sacrifices and managing risks well to be able to succeed. Correctional facilities are tough places.

I am often amazed, Your Majesty King **Mphephu Ramabulana-Ramabulana**, when I hear people saying that correctional centres are five-star hotels. This is definitely not the case. Not only must inmates be held securely, efforts must be made to provide opportunities for them to become better citizens when they are released.

Today's occasion is an important platform to help forge and strengthen the partnership between the Department and the people of this area. If we are to succeed it is critical that we work together, side by side, toward one goal: the realization of that of the vision of building safer communities. We must restore the social fibre and help to raise the morale of our communities through joining hands to defeat the scourge of abuse against women, children and the elderly. It is time we held up a mirror and each of us took responsibility as active citizens and soldiers of justice and moral rectitude.

The harsh reality is that the Department of Correctional Services on its own can never bring about the end to the trepidation that women and children are subjected to. What is urgently needed are partners who are willing to work with and support correctional services programmes that focus on rehabilitation, reconciliation, moral regeneration, social reintegration and education, because these elements will restore healthy relationships in communities.

When people are released from our centres, they are particularly vulnerable at the beginning. This is where they need our support as the community the most, so that they can adjust, and feel welcomed, to start living a normal life.

Ladies and Gentlemen, critical for all of us to understand is that parole is not a right but a privilege. The parole process has specific conditions that an offender must comply with. To this day, Correctional Services continues to place over 75 000 offenders on parole annually and the results are remarkable with 99% compliance and only one percent of those who fail to comply with parole conditions. This is a clear indication that the social reintegration of offenders can work successfully when done properly, where there exists a cohesive working relationship between correctional officials and communities.

Exactly ten years ago, the World Bank confirmed that there was a growing consensus among policy-makers that violence was not simply a security issue but that it had its roots in the social and economic conditions in society. Therefore, an effective and efficient response requires a holistic approach that takes into consideration the causes of crime. This, ladies and gentlemen, cannot be achieved when we work in silos. Hence, today we are here to seek a helping hand from you. Let us work together to achieve our vision and goals of building a better nation.

Programme Director It is commonly recognized that the current parole system, which was introduced in 2004 (based on a model developed already in 1997 and legislated in 1998), may require restructuring and in need of a review. Now is the time for a total re-examination of the South African approach to parole. Now is the time to articulate a new jurisprudence of parole, perhaps with new language and certainly with new operational constructs. The new way of doing things must recognize the reality that almost everyone we incarcerate will return home at some stage.

As our democracy matures, the Department of Correctional Services must pioneer a correctional system that equips inmates with basic social skills that enhance their personal development. Community involvement activities must provide inmates with avenues to contribute back to society, even whilst behind correctional centre walls. We can only rebuild broken lives by investing in rehabilitation efforts and such programmes must be reviewed continuously not only for relevance, but as an empowerment tool to fight crime.

The anger we have witnessed in this District, resulting in the killing of parolees and probationers, does indicate that cohesiveness is required quite urgently.

We fully understand that, as communities, you are at the receiving end of the actions of those who break the law. Social ills have become a daily phenomenon confronting you with devastating effects on the values of society. Young people are found to be at the centre, as both victims and perpetrators of crime. As a result, a large number of young people end up in our correctional facilities serving long sentences.

Let us find means to work together and co-ordinate efforts intended to facilitate the reintegration of ex-offenders into society, and the empowerment of inmates through socio-economic development interventions. It is important that when offenders exit a correctional facility, they can be integrated in all aspects of civic life including economically.

Successful rehabilitation, reintegration, moral regeneration and reconciliation can all be achieved through working together. Now is the time to make our mark and to contribute to a better community, a better South Africa.

The evil actions of a few individuals must not diminish our belief and our resolve to bring out better people through corrective actions. Just as important if not more, as a nation, as a society, as a people, we must engender a culture that places a premium on helping those who have been at the receiving end of criminal activities to turn their lives around.

We shall be failing in our duties if we do not hold the hands of those who are affected negatively by acts of brutality, violence rape and murder. We must rally around them and help them to carry on.

So, let us work together to build a better South Africa.

I thank you.