

Address by MEC Motlalepula Rosho at the Launch of the Departmental Anti-Corruption Hotline, Mahikeng - September 21, 2023

Head of Department, Mr. Ndlela Kunene

Distinguished guests Prof. Makhanya Mandla from the Public Service Commission

Mr. Lebogang Mautlwa from the Public Service Commission

Senior management of the department,

Our valued service providers, Mr. Sanjay Hargovan from Vuvuzela Fraud and Ethics Hotline

Dedicated Team Treasury

Good morning to all of you, and I want to begin by emphasizing that a heartfelt speech resonates when our words align with our deepest convictions. Today, I stand before you to address a pressing global issue that continues to cast a shadow over our society, an issue that has far-reaching implications for our economy: corruption.

Corruption, ladies and gentlemen, is a malaise that knows no boundaries. It corrodes the very foundations of trust between citizens and their leaders, undermining political stability and economic progress. Ena ke nnete e utlwisang bothoko mme e sena bana ba phefo.

It's painfully evident that corruption hinders development and diverts resources away from vital investments in infrastructure, education, and public health. It erects insurmountable barriers for entrepreneurs seeking to transform their innovative ideas into job-creating enterprises.

Corruption is like a malignant tumor, thriving in the shadows of secrecy and silence. However, I firmly believe that our united voices and collective actions possess the power to expose and combat this menace.

Every day, we bear witness to news reports of influential individuals exploiting their positions for personal gain, while ordinary citizens suffer the consequences. This is a scenario we've witnessed far too frequently, but there is a ray of hope - the courageous whistle-blowers.

Corruption exacerbates the gravest challenges we face, hindering our ability to respond effectively to crises, whether it be a health pandemic, environmental disaster, or economic hardship. Worse yet, it provides fertile ground for those who seek to exploit fear and division for their own agendas and ambitions.

Ultimately, if the public loses faith in their government's ability to protect and promote their well-being, all other endeavors become futile. This is why the battle against corruption stands as one of the defining struggles of our era.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have been elected by the people and entrusted with positions of authority not for personal gain but to serve as stewards of public resources. We cannot allow a select few to abuse their power, violating the rights and privileges of the very citizens they are meant to uplift. Re leitlho la dithoto tsa setshaba. Bagarona ba beile tshepo ya bona mo go rona mme re tshwanetse go ba direla ka tshiamo.

The repercussions of corruption are keenly felt by our fellow citizens on the ground, affecting children, students, the elderly, orphans, and many more. How can we sleep peacefully knowing that the orphan next door may go hungry due to corrupt actions committed by our colleagues or those in positions of power? It's disheartening. Re ikutlwa jang fa re bona bana ba dikhutsana ba sokeletsega mala ke tlala mme tseo di ba ditshwanetseng mongwe a ikhumisa ka tsona?

Team Treasury, our fundamental responsibility is to prudently manage provincial and municipal fiscal resources, facilitate efficient asset management, and uphold accountability and financial compliance standards. Today, I challenge each and every one of us to guard these entrusted public resources with unwavering diligence.

Combatting corruption in the public sector remains a top government priority, and the Anti-Corruption Hotline we are launching today serves as a crucial tool for citizens to report suspected acts of corruption. We must take immediate action to report corruption, knowing that our systems offer protection to those who expose wrongdoing. There is no need to fear; anonymity is assured.

Whistle-blowers are the brave souls who, despite personal risks, step forward to unveil corruption and malpractice. (We all remember the heroic actions of Babita Dwokaran).

They are the guardians of transparency, accountability, and justice. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices and commitment to the greater good.

Whistle-blowing is not an act of betrayal; it is an act of patriotism. It means placing our collective interests above personal concerns, ensuring that our hard-earned tax dollars benefit society rather than lining the pockets of the corrupt.

Yet, we must acknowledge that whistle-blowers often face severe consequences: harassment, threats, and professional repercussions. This is unacceptable. We must fortify legal protections for whistle-blowers, ensuring they are shielded from harm and rewarded for their courage.

Moreover, as a society, we must nurture a culture that values integrity and transparency. We must encourage individuals to speak out against corruption without fearing reprisals. It begins with education, instilling the values of honesty and accountability in our children.

Institutions, too, must be held accountable. We must demand transparency from all levels of government, corporations, and organizations, and insist on robust mechanisms for reporting corruption. These mechanisms must be accessible and safe for whistle-blowers to utilize.

As our theme aptly declares, "Blow the Whistle Against Corruption," let us blow the whistle when we suspect corruption, fraud, theft, or wrongdoing in the public service.

Let me officially declare the departmental Anti-Corruption Hotline number open. The numbers are 0801 413 666, and whistle-blowers can also send tip-offs via SMS to 30916 and Email: nwpt@thehotline.co.za

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Ke a leboga