



**CLLR ANDREW MAPHETLE – EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
POTCHEFSTROOM
SASSA GRANT CAMPAIGN
TUESDAY – 18 JULY 2006
IKAGENG STADIUM
10H00**

Honourable Nikiwe Mangqo – MEC for Social Development [also known as South African Social Security Agency] in the North West province;

Her Worship Councillor Pinky Moloi – Executive Mayor of the Southern District Municipality;

Councilor Meso Dassie – Member of the Mayoral Committee for Social Development from the Potchefstroom City Council;

Colleague Councillors present here today;

The Church Fraternity;

Senior and other officials of the various departments represented here today;

Distinguished guests;

The communities of our beautiful region;

People of Potchefstroom;

The media;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

An image of a dark, sandy, tattered, smiling and with little fingers to her mouth and walking bare-feet in a dusty, smoke-filled and untidy street of a black neighborhood – I imagined this picture that I saw many years ago AND it touched my heart. This picture of a young girl – who was not posing, but rather astonished by the glitzy camera and the neat cameraman behind it, inspired me to be a soldier of the people.

I am Maphetle Maphetle and one of the well-groomed leaders and servants of the Potchefstroom City Council. When I was informed about this important campaign coming to our City – I thanked the Almighty and the ancestors of our people for the blessings that they are pouring onto us. I was thankful and imagined the faces of many of our people who will leave here knowing that from next month, their children will receive grants – and will for the first time in their lives, wear decent shoes and uniform to schools.

That smile that came to my face, MEC Mangqo – was the thought of seeing how our government is fulfilling its promises of a better live for all. The same government, that entered into a contract with our people – and promised that all people, irrespective of where they are, will have full benefits to the resources and programmes of the day. Ladies and gentlemen – going to bed without food in your stomach and no blankets to cover your body in this winter, is not easy.

I believe that it is in this spirit – that the South African Social Security Agency in this region saw it befitting to call out a meeting of this nature, and encourage our people to register for these government services that they are entitled to. Our government promised more than 50 years ago – that the people of this country will share the land and all shall equally reap the fruits from this fertile land.

Yes – Programme Director, it is our prerogative as the servants of the people, to ensure that they fully understand and own the schemes like the child support grants. We believe that when they know about such programmes – then they will be able to utilize them wisely and assist government in sustaining them. We know who the real beneficiaries of these schemes and programmes should be – and it is our individual responsibilities to ensure that we do not squeeze them out of life, for when they are dead – then millions of our people will follow.

Our municipality is really humbled by hosting this campaign. Maybe I should just mention to you MEC – that after talking to you and our people now, I will have to rush back to a special workshop of all Councillors at our Chambers, that aims to clearly define and will encourage us to intermingle with our mandate and ensure better services to our people.

We have rebuilt old dilapidated houses that were allocated to our people decades ago – and will be officially handing them over in the next few weeks. These were rebuilt at no cost to these owners – simply because most of them could not afford to renovate them. Our housing department is working tirelessly to implement the building of low-cost houses for our needy masses in the new Extensions of Ikageng and Promosa.

Our municipality seeks to ensure that social and economic rights are progressively realized, that the legacy of historical injustice is redressed, and that our children in Potchefstroom, will enjoy the fruits of broad-based development and robust economic growth. We should always join forces and focus on reducing poverty and extending basic services to all our people.

Our Council is committed to continuing with the provision of free basic services in terms of 10 Kl of water (to all households) and 50 KWh of electricity per indigent household. Currently more than 18 000 households enjoy free basic water and more than 4 500 households free basic electricity – and our journey still continues. We will not rest until most of our people, especially deserving households receive these benefits.

I would plead with the officials from your department MEC Mangqo – to liaise with the Community Development Workers operating from my office in identifying and further registering and taking these services to our communities. These are the officials of government – who are tasked by the State President to do the work at the most grass-roots levels. Let us integrate the services of this government and see how far we can stretch these limited resources. I know that we can.

At the end MEC – I would like to see a changed picture of a black, unblemished, neat and smiling young girl, strolling in a well-kept street somewhere in Extension 11. A picture of hope and an assurance - that these services are reaching all of our people. Welcome to Potchefstroom – and I hope that we will reach as many of our people in this campaign today. May God bless you – and give us strength and understanding in carrying out the mandate of bringing improvements to our people.

I thank you.