

The ANC has stolen our freedom

Speech by Joe McGulwa MP, DA Deputy Shadow Minister in the Presidency

Speaker I hail from Matlosana, in Alabama a stone throw away from where Freedom Day celebrations were held.

The moment we learnt about the President's visit, we witnessed rapid developments taking place in Matlosana.

The maintenance of streets, potholes repairs, grass cutting, and those responsible for service delivery anxiously awaiting the President's arrival, find themselves with hot flashes wishing the days away.

In his speech the President mentioned Matlosana 7 times, including Makwete where the late Desmond Tutu resided.

Madam Speaker, let the record reflect the true state of freedom for the people of the Matlosana.

The Municipality of Matlosana's bank account of R1.24 billion has been attacked by Eskom. Matlosana spend up to 10 hours per day without electricity.

Matlosana suffered for weeks without any water.

Infrastructure in Matlosana is falling apart with no investment opportunities.

The late Desmond Tutu once said and I quote "Let the ANC know that they have a large majority, well Mubarak had a large majority, Gaddafi had a large majority, watch out I am warning you watch out".

Tshepong and Matlosana hospitals are falling apart, where doctors and patients are being robbed in broad daylight by brazen criminals whose rights and freedoms mean more than ordinary patients' out there.

Patients of Matlosana hospital remain vulnerable and cannot protect themselves against criminals.

The day when crime statistics replace the pain of parents, brothers, children and friends of the more than 27 000 murder victims and 40 000 rape victims per annum in South Africa, the victims of Lilly mine whose bodies remain unfounded, and who can forget the Marikana massacre and the families who remain inconsolable.

Mr President, you talked about unity and a family that must stay together, yes perhaps everyone wanted to be part of freedom day in Matlosana except the former Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo, and his REC cronies.

Too much for family meetings that includes everyone.

In the bigger scheme of things, a connected and convicted prisoner manages to operate a business from his prison cell and escapes from custody in a fashion that even the movie makers were not able to concoct, a total criminal justice system where Katlego Bereng's body was brutalised, burnt and used as a decoy to aid the escape of a rapist and murderer Thabo Bester with a government that was supposed to protect our citizens.

As part of the same commitment to our freedom internationally, an International Criminal Court was established to investigate crimes against humanity.

Yet, on Freedom Day our government is grappling with a political dilemma of choosing between welcoming an ideological compatriot or arresting the same person for perpetrating brutal crimes against woman and children. We should reflect and bough our heads in shame.

Instead this government established inter-ministerial committees one after the other at the public's expense where horrendous findings were made. No accountability at all.

We have our own Putins wandering the streets – and some of them are sitting here in Parliament – for who justice will never come.

Their freedom is the end to our freedom.