

Address by the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Dikeledi Josephine Mmetle Council during the memorial service of Hector Butana Mlondobodzi at Tivumbeni MPC on 31 March 2016.

Programme Director

The Mlondobodzi Family

All Councillors of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Representatives of the ANC

Representatives of the SAMWU

Representatives of the Roads and Transport

Representatives of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Representatives of the Mopani District Municipality

PR and Ward Councillors

Officials of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Ladies' and gentlemen

This is indeed a very sad moment, a tragic part of our history, it is moments of this nature that our collective wish never to be repeated.

The pain and the agony of parent whose son hell never get to see again, the mystery of bubbly little girl who will require images and tales to know the love of her father.

Mama i know how hard it is, only God can relieve you.

Yes, many will never fathom nor comprehend the irreparable damage that events like these can cause to a nation.

All of us, in this hall have lost a valuable a soldier; we have lost a warrior that went to war but never to return.

We have lost a friend, a husband, a father, a friend and a colleague and a comrade.

Today we do not mourn Hector's life, we celebrate his life and his contribution to the community he loved so dearly.

He has travelled the course of his journey, albeit a sudden and tragic end for only God knows why.

We have all gathered here today to pay our last respect to one of our own, I am today presiding over heartbroken municipality, whose people are searching for answers but only questions arise.

It is said that all our lives will culminate into death, although we are all aware of this harsh reality we are seldom prepared for it.

No human is engineered to be pain proof or immune to the agony of losing those closest to their heart.

But in our deepest despair and our darkest hour, in our difficult times, and during our trials and tribulations God remains the only source of hope and strength.

We must therefore take stand, raise our heads and look into the sky and shout in our loudest voices for God's help.

To his wife, you need to be strong for your children, we cannot claim to know how you feel, nor can we prescribe a remedy to alleviate your pain.

No one can provide compass to guide you into the future, only God is privy to such details.

To his parents, I might not know the agony of losing a son or a daughter, but I know the pain of losing a loved one,

I also know that no parent wants to bury their off spring, we all live with the hope of that our children are the ones to provide a decent send-off for us.

We are never prepared for the opposite, but the will of God cannot be questioned.

I say, call on the almighty to give your strength in these trying times, he will give you the wisdom to go through these difficult times and you will eventually emerge on the other side with renewed hope and vigour.

Everthing happens for a reason, God will never give you a burden you can not carry.

I have worked closely with Hector, he was my interim personal driver at some stage. I felt very safe in his hands.

We also come from the same ANC Branch, Tracy Malatji and he was given the responsibility of Deputy Chairperson of the ANC Tracy Malatji Branch.

My Chairperson, Cde Jonathan, Cde Hector is no more.

We travelled all over the Limpopo province and beyond its

borders together.

I also trusted him enough not to reveal details of conversations I had in his presence.

I entrusted Hector with my safety, with my life. I also trusted him to

Ladies and gentlemen, we must never make a mistake of letting Hector's tragic death be in vein.

All of us in this hall and all the residents of this tropical paradise must begin to play an active role in ensuring that our streets are safe.

We must all be ambassadors of road safety,

We must frown on the sight of reckless driving, but we must not stop there.

We must take an active decision to alert authorities of reckless driving and reckless drivers.

The actions of reckless and negligent drivers cause unnecessary loss of lives.

We lose bread winners and important community assets because of reckless and negligent driving.

Let the word of God comfort us in these trying times.

The bible says in Isaiah 57 verse 1 and 2 “Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.”

So let's all stand together as one to combat this monster

that threatens our livelihoods.

Hector the Fighter

Hector the straight talker

*To his wife, Makhanana, his children Sihle and Samkelo,
His father Papa Norman and Mama Linah Mlondobodzi,
His sisters, Caroline, Victoria and Veronica and his brother
Henry i want to leave with this verse.*

Isaiah Chapter 41:10 - 13 “*fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand ... For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”*”

May the Soul of Hector Butana Mlodobodzi, our fallen hero rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire us all.

I thank you