

LAUNCH OF JOE SIBANYONI FOUNDATION (JSF)

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF JSF- MR MJ SIBANYONI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

MASLOW HOTEL MENLYN MAINE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU SO MUCH. THANK YOU PROGRAMME DIRECTOR. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GREET

- PRESIDENT OF SANTACO
- SANTACO EXECUTIVE
- SALLDTBO EXECUTIVE AND THE ASSOCIATIONS.
- DEPUTY MAYOR MR MODISE
- FAMILY OF HONORABLES, MY FRIENDS MAZOLMAN SKOSANA AND BUSI MKHWEBANE,
- ADVOCATE DALI MPOFU LAST MAN TO DEFECT FROM EFF TO MK
- MY FAMILY AND EXTENDED ONE AND FRIENDS
- BUSINESS PARTNERS BOARD MEMBERS OF SCRAPPING IN THE TAXI INDUSTRY
- BONGUMUSA MAKHATHINI- CEO PRIMEDIA
- BOARD OF JSF

GOOD EVENING TO YOU ALL. NOT TO FORGET THE ORLANDO PIRATES THE CURRENT BETWAY LOG LEADERS TILL THE END OF THE SEASON

LAST WEEK WE BURIED ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS MR MKONZA WHO WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS TONIGHT MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

TODAY IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY FOR ME AND I'M HONOURED AND GRATEFUL TO BE CELEBRATING THIS DAY WITH THOSE WHO ARE MOST CLOSE TO ME. TODAY IS SPECIAL BECAUSE IT IS A CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S JOURNEY AND EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE GONE THROUGH.

WHAT HAS MY LIFE BEEN ABOUT?

- BUSINESS
- TAXIS AND THE TAXI INDUSTRY
- FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE THAT I LIVE WITH.

I HAVE, AND CONTINUE TO LIVE A LIFE OF PRIVILEGE, WHICH I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR. I BELIEVE GOD BLESSES US SO THAT WE CAN BE A BLESSING TO OTHER PEOPLE. WITH THOSE WORDS, THE JOE SIBANYONI FOUNDATION IS A VEHICLE THAT WILL BE USED TO FULFILL MY DUTY OF UPLIFTING THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES AROUND ME.

FROM A YOUNG AGE, I REALIZED THAT MY PATH TO BECOMING A BETTER PERSON DIDN'T REST SOLELY ON THE GOVERNMENT. I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT ISN'T ONLY THEIR DUTY TO CREATE JOBS. INSPIRED BY MY FATHER, A DEDICATED TAXI OWNER I LEARNED THE TRUE VALUE OF HARD WORK AND SELF-RELIANCE. THROUGHOUT MY JOURNEY OF SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES, I RECOGNIZED A VITAL NEED FOR TRANSFORMATION, NOT JUST WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY BUT ACROSS OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY. AS THE PRESIDENT OF SALLDTBO AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF TAXICHOICE, WE HAVE A NATIONWIDE REACH AND CAN USE THESE STRUCTURES AS WELL AS JSF TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. JSF IS MEANT TO HAVE AN IMPACT BEYOND THE BORDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA. AS YOU CAN SEE, TODAY WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU MISS TEEN SA 2022, WHO IS ALSO CURRENTLY MISS TEEN UNIVERSE SA FINALIST. SO JSF IS FROM KWAGGAFONTEIN IN MPUMALANGA TO SA AND TO THE WORLD. WE ARE AN ORGANISATION WITH A GLOBAL VISION.

ONE OF THE MOST URGENT CHALLENGES WE FACE TODAY IS THE ALARMING NUMBER OF GRADUATES SITTING AT HOME WITHOUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES. TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE MUST ADDRESS THE CRITICAL NEED FOR OUR ECONOMY TO GROW FASTER AND CREATE MORE CHANCES FOR ALL. WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO REMAIN PASSIVE. IT IS TIME TO RISE AND BE THE CATALYSTS FOR THE CHANGE WE ENVISION.

THE 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, JOHN F KENNEDY, IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN 1961 SAID, I QUOTE "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU – ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY". IF WE DISECT THESE WORDS, THEY WERE TELLING THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE LAZY AND SELFISH. DON'T ASK FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING, ASK HOW YOU CAN DO IT. THROUGH THE JOE SIBANYONI FOUNDATION, WE ARE NOT JUST SAYING THE SAME THING, BUT WE ARE ALSO ACTING ON IT AND ESTABLISHING A VEHICLE THAT WILL WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

TO THE JSF BOARD, "MY WORD WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU, SESITHEMBELE KININA". AS THEY SAY, IF YOU WANT TO WALK FAST, WALK ALONE, BUT IF YOU WANT TO WALK FAR, TAKE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALONG. I WANT TO GO FAR AND JSF IS THE VEHICLE THAT WILL CONTINUE WITH THE JOURNEY. WITH THE R10 MILLION SEED FUNDING THAT I AM CONTRIBUTING INTO JSF, THIS IS JUST 1% OF THE TOTAL FUNDING THAT I WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE FOUNDATION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS. IN CASE YOU ARE MATHEMATICALLY CHALLENGED, R10 MILLION IS 1% OF R1 BILLION (ONE BILLION RANDBS).

JSF WILL BE FOCUSING ON A VARIETY OF PROJECTS, MOST OF THEM WILL BE HIGH IMPACT PROJECTS WHICH CREATE JOBS AND INVEST IN EDUCATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE EDUCATE A YOUNG WOMAN WHO GOES ON TO ESTABLISH HER OWN BUSINESS AND EMPLOY 10 PEOPLE, WE HAVE IMPACTED ON 11 LIVES AND HELPED TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE FOR 11 FAMILIES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO COULD BE 4 OR 5 OR MORE.

OUR ACTUARIES AND ECONOMISTS HAVE INFORMED ME THAT THE ONE BILLION RAND THAT WE WILL INVEST IN JSF WILL HAVE AN IMPACT OF OVER R40 BILLION ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

THE JSF HAS BEEN SET UP TO CONTINUE WITH MY LIFE'S WORK AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITIES. I WANT TO SEE PEOPLE'S LIVES CHANGE. I WANT TO SEE JSF MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES AND YOUNG UP AND COMING BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN.

SOME PROJECTS THAT WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED WORKING ON INCLUDE BUILDING A HOUSE FOR A DESTITUTE FAMILY IN 165 BLOCK Y IN SOSHANGUVE. WE WILL BE HANDING OVER THIS BRAND NEW HOME TO THE FAMILY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER WHERE IN THE DEPT OF HOUSING HERE IN TSHWANE WILL BE ACCOMPANYING US

THESE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE PROJECTS THAT THE JSF IS CURRENTLY BUSY WITH. LADIES AND GENTLEMAN I'M HANDING OVER THIS HEAVY NAME OF A MAN WITH 3 LEGAL WIVES 14 KIDS, A FERRARI NICKNAME, A MAN WHO FEARS GOD AT ALL TIMES. I'M INSPIRED BY WORD IN THE BIBLE JOB 20 VERSE 20 AND 21 THAT SAYS I CAME WITH NOTHING IN THESE WORLD SO I WILL DEPART WITH NOTHING SO WHY NOT GIVE AND SHARE WITH THE LESS PRIVILEGE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR COUNTRY CAUSE YOU LOOSE NOTHING OF YOUR OWN

I'M FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LATE NELSON MANDELA, MOTSEPE FAMILY, DR NKWAME NKURUMAH OF GHANA WHO USED TO SAY "THOUGHT WITHOUT PRACTICE IS EMPTY AND ACTION WITHOUT THOUGHT IS BLIND".

MAY GOD BLESS YOU. MAY GOD BLESS AFRICA. MAY GOD BLESS THE WORLD

AS I CLOSE WITH MY COMMON SALUTATION WHICH IS A GESTURE OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR PRESENCE