

**WELCOME ADDRESS IN HONOUR OF THE LATE PRESIDENT  
FIDEL CASTRO OF CUBA  
BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION  
MRS PAMELA TSHWETE  
SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA  
04 DECEMBER 2016**

Programme Director  
Acting Ambassador of Cuba in South Africa  
Cuban People Living in South Africa  
Cuban Engineers Supporting our development  
Fellow South Africans  
Comrades and Compatriots  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Please receive my revolutionary and fraternal greetings on behalf of the African National Congress (ANC), the broader Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and all the people of South Africa.

Fellow comrades and people of Cuba, thank you for your generous gesture in gracing this ceremony, to pay tribute to the former late Cuban President, comrade Fidel Castro.

Please receive our warm welcome to this gracious occasion in the name of our beloved hero and our leader.

Comrades and friends, we are gathered here today to mourn whilst also celebrating the passing on of our great revolutionary comrade Fidel Castro.

We are mourning because comrade Fidel is no more but will remain in our minds for a very long time. We are celebrating today his many years of heroic struggles, revolutionary struggles and experiences and high level of political education and teachings.

In this commemoration we are joining millions of Cuban people, many world communities and many revolutionary movements and political parties in the world who gave their last respect to this martyr of our times.

We will remember comrade Fidel as the father, a friend and an ally of the South African Struggle. We have known him to be the enemy of racial oppression, capitalist exploitation, class discrimination, extermination of other national groups and social backwardness.

In his own words he would say:

Why do some people have to go barefoot so that others can drive luxury cars?

Why are some people able to live only 35 years in order that others can live 70 years?

Why do some people have to be miserably poor in order that others can be extravagantly rich?

It was his strong belief that capitalism will always be incapable, without the will and the ability to solve permanently the problems of poverty in the world.

He advocated for the building and development of the new world order based on people's justice, on equality amongst nations and on peace between the people of the world.

Comrades and friends the people of South Africa will remain indebted to your cause because of the role played by this glorious leader of our people.

He will be counted amongst very few heroes of the modern age and icons of freedom.

Once again welcome to this service held to express our solidarity with your people.

In conclusion I want to thank Minister Nomvula Mokonyane for allowing me to implement and operationalised the Cooperation between our Department of Water and Sanitation together with the water sector partners in Cuba.

Lastly I must say in the global politics, comrade Fidel remained a great teacher, an excellent communicator, a fearless commander, a dynamic revolutionary, an acute strategist and a humble statesman par excellence.

**May his soul rest in peace**

**Lala ngoxolo comrade Fidel Castro**

**Amandla**