

Fairwell to Fred Kinnear Speech by MEC VR Shongwe on the 26 of May 2012

Program Director,

Managing Directors of Buscor

Senior Managers from DCSSL

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guest,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

Program Director, let me take this opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude and joy that you have decided to call me to be amongst those who bids farewell to Mr Fred Kinnear. Mr Kinnear if you were living in the Township you would be called Bra Fred in as much as I am call Bra Vusi at times.

So, Bra Fred we are here to bid you farewell, to celebrate and take stock of the good and bad times we have had together. So I am not going to be formal and tight, we are here to celebrate and celebrations calls for a particular mood that is relaxed and enjoyable.

It is indeed moving that you are leaving the company and as a Department and the people of Mpumalanga in general are indebted to you and the company because of the good work you have been doing to this far.

Buscor has always provided a safe and reliable transportation for the people of the Lowveld at a reasonable price. We are grateful of that because it means that parents can be able to be with their children and families every morning and evening. So Bra Fred, you have been part of this success story that has made commuting to and from work an easy exercise for thousands of people all over Lowveld.

As the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison we feel honored and privileged to bid farewell to you as you leave your position as Managing Director. It is not easy to say Goodbye to you, but sometimes a man has to go. One job opportunity has been created since you should be replaced.

Since 2004 Buscor has been a key stakeholder and supporter of road safety. It is through Mr Kinnear's good leadership that Buscor has been participating in a number of road safety programmes, particularly the Driver of the year Competition, better known as DOTY.

Every year Buscor is donating money for the prizes of drivers and providing transport when they attend National Driver of the Year Competitions. As a Department we want to thank Mr Kinnear's for the contribution you have made and the leadership showed accompanied by a deep seated passion and love for road safety.

Since the former Department of Roads and Transport developed a provincial Road safety strategy in 2006, which emphasized managing road safety through partnerships, Buscor has been a pillar in supporting Department and we can safely say, the company has outclassed itself and left an indelible mark that the people of the province will always see and appreciate.

I have been reliable told that you are transporting more than 136, 000 passengers daily, which immediately makes you a very important stakeholder to our Department. It is indeed fulfilling that as a company you have always been there to support Government and the people of the Province in general. This is a demonstration of Public Private partnership in action.

Not long ago, I was with Mam Norah at Msogwaba donating drum majorates to Msogwaba Primary School. It was a moving ceremony and I was touched because I could see that the children really appreciated the gift from the bottom of their hearts yet to some us as adults it might have looked like one of those less important gifts.

Program Director, I have been noticing and monitoring the condition of your buses and I must say that I am impressed so far. The good conditions in which your buses are in must not go with Bra Fred but it should be what characterize and define Buscor in the years to come. You have build a reputation and that should be maintained at all cost.

Winston Churchill said "Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it".

Program Director our experience is that fatigue, speeding, recklessness, drinking and driving are amongst major causes of accidents on our roads.

I am sure that this company has learnt from every accident that has happened on our roads in the past and that measures are forever put in place to ensure safety of the thousands of commuters you are transporting daily. The departure of Mr Kinnear must not compromise any of the good checks and balances you have put in place over the years.

Ubaba uJohn Ngombe nezinye ikhula zakwa Buscor, omama uNorah bazi kahle ukuthi kumazima kanjani ukuyobhekana nemindeni, nezintantane zabantu abaswelaka emigaqweni yethu ubatshela ukuthi labo ababathandayo abasekho emhlabeni.

It is always very depressing and painful to explain that their loved ones are no more. Lets learn from what Winston Churchill said. If the company does not learn from what has happened in the past, then it might just as well close shop.

Show no mercy to drivers who drive as if they are on formulae 1, our roads are not racing tracks. It is on that note Program Director that we want to appeal to the management that they should keep an eye on reckless drivers within your staff compliment.

Create conducive working environment for your drivers and treat them well because on daily bases more that 136 000 lives plus that of other road users are in their hands.

As a Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, we have committed our self into turning all the roads of Mpumalanga into holy roads. We will not achieve this noble goal by ourselves but only through partnerships with important stakeholders like Buscor.



Program Director, I have been on the frontline of all the service delivery protest in the Province and I have noted one common thing in almost all of them. Our youth are always in the frontline, burning, dramaging properties, and doing all sorts of things in the name of service delivery.

I am raising this because I want to sharply challenge the public sector to pay a particular attention to the many young people who are rooming our street day in day out.

This is even more relevant to Buscor because when this upheavals starts Buscor is also in the line of fire. The anger that this young people have gets vented at your buses. I have seen your buses being pelted with stones and at some extreme cases being burnt.

This problem is not a Government problem alone, it has reach a state where we all need to think hard about what needs to be done. This situations has to be contained. Without indicating exactly what needs to be done, I am appealing to Bra Fred, his colleagues that are remaining at Buscor to start thinking along the lines of dealing with this situation.

We appreciate the fact that in not so distant future, our Province will have a University of its own and thereby assist us in dealing with the matriculants who finds themselves on the streets every year and not getting jobs and later on joining the fray that destabilizes our communities through violent service delivery protests.

Leadership is more like a baton than a trophy Bra Fred. You keep a trophy, but you hand over the baton. With this I mean that your spirit, your love and passion for road safety will remain with you yet today you handing over the baton to other Buscor Directors who will continue serving communities and bringing smile to less the fortunate in our province.

This is the end of your race at Buscor but you are leaving a mark, a mark that will never be forgotten by the country in general and the province in particular. We wish you all the best in the new ventures ahead of you.

In you we have a reliable ally and the bond we have created will never break.

Thank you.