



Speech by Prof N.A Nevhutanda
Chairperson of the National Lotteries Board
presented at the NLB Indaba 2014
23 September 2014

On behalf of the National Lotteries Board, I would like to welcome you all to the 3rd Annual Indaba.

Our Country is celebrating 20years of Democracy, the National Lotteries Board is celebrating 15 years of existence,15years of extreme hard work,15 years of selflessness,15 years of empowering Civil Society....this actually reminds me of the lyrics of one of my favourite song which read,

“Don’t Think For A Moment I Never Felt The Pain, You Can’t Imagine The Hurt And The Shame...I Didn’t Have To Do It, But I Did It Any Way...It Was Not Easy,But It Was Worth It,It Was Not Easy,But It Was Worth It.”

Now coming back to the purpose of our gathering here today; As Africans, it is in our nature to discuss matters of importance together. Words like Imbizo, Lekgotla and others are not simply catch phrases. These words carry the spirit and intention of our gatherings where we can share news and find solutions to our common challenges; because when people are engaged in the resolution of problems affecting themselves and the whole collectively, energies are unleashed which enhance the likelihood of the creation of imaginative solutions and successful strategies.



For us at the NLB, INDABA carries the commitment that we made to you to bring all stakeholders together under one roof in order to deal with the challenges that we face and explore innovative ways of addressing them irrespective of how complex they are.

Remember that as human beings, Ngugi wa Thiongo maintains that, “Our lives are a battlefield on which is fought a continuous war between the forces that are pledged to confirm our humanity and those determined to dismantle it; those who strive to build a protective wall around it, and those who wish to pull it down; those who seek to mould it and those committed to breaking it up; those who aim to open our eyes, to make us see the light and look to tomorrow....and those who wish to lull us into closing our eyes.” so brothers and sisters, I know that the reason you are attending this Indaba, is because you chose to open your eyes, to see the light and look to tomorrow.

This Indaba represents one of the largest social upliftment ecosystems in South Africa and I feel privileged and proud to be among a group of people of your calibre. You carry the hopes and dreams of so many of our people. On behalf of the National Lotteries Board, I cannot thank you enough for your dedication and hard work, which in every sense is the engine that continues to drive our country forward. We know that what we allocate to you is often not enough for you to satisfy your aspirations; The book, ‘Give Smart’ by Tierney and Fleishman clearly illustrates that it is however in the nature of a funding organisation like the NLB that:

‘when you give away money, and in some cases lots of money and yet it pales in comparison to the needs we see all around us ; urban slums, commonly referred to as informal settlements, poverty stricken communities particularly in rural areas, children without access to schooling whatsoever, women and children abuse, deforestation and unclean water, crippling diseases of many kinds. Our aspirations are indeed much greater than our resources, that at times it feels as though we are trying to hold back the tide; therefore our wish has been for the money distributed to good causes to have as much impact as possible.’



While together we continue to face many challenges each day, let us draw strengths from the knowledge that our work has the potential to transform beyond recognition, the lives of countless underprivileged members of our society. It is indeed 'the little things that you do as South African citizens that makes a difference in the lives of our people'.

Today, the National Lotteries Board is also pleased to have you among us as we celebrate 15 years of service to our people. In the last 15 years, R18 billion found its way to multitudes of community builders we are proud to call our partners and stakeholders in social development, many of whom are among us here today.

R18 billion later, there are people who have acquired skills through programmes funded by the National Lotteries Board. R18 billion later, thousands of South Africans now have access to services that were a mere dream. R18 billion later, a significant number of our youth have a better chance of success in life because they participated in skills development initiatives funded by the National Lotteries Board. R18 billion later, we have communities that now have access to better sporting facilities. R18 billion later, we can proudly say South Africa has a better foundation on which to build a brighter future.

Fast forward to the past five years of the current Board of the NLB:

We all participated in one way or the other in the struggle for freedom, and for the democratisation of our Country; now, a basic principle of the democratic constitution is liberty.....basically meaning 'ruling and being ruled in turn. We read in Lynda Gratton's 'The Democratic Enterprise' that 'what is fundamental in what Aristotle illustrated in his book, The Politics, especially as it pertains to democracy, is

'the value of collaboration, learning and open debate to solve problems and making continuously better and actionable decisions; the importance of shared values in fostering that kind of collaboration; and an ever-deepening understanding of how the



goals and aspirations of individuals and community have to be mutually and continuously aligned.'

Now building on these fundamental principles of democracy, the Board embarked on a strategy of taking services to the people...providing access to NLB funding and engaging in meaningful conversations with our beneficiaries through the Indaba as well as the Post Indaba Stake holder Engagements and lastly through continuous education in the form of capacity building workshops and help desks. By the end of the current financial year 6 provincial offices will be operational throughout the Country.

This Brothers and Sisters, is a legacy that has been built through your support we hope that those who come after us will not only uphold it but will continue to build on it. Let me also hasten to say that as one of the biggest funding organisations in the Country, in the world of non-profits and NGOs, there has to be an element of measurement as Thomas outlined that indicates the following:-

1. Accountability (what did the NLB achieve with the money allocated to any project)
2. Continuous improvement (given these results, and what we know, how can we get better)
3. Proof of impact (has the funding changed people's lives)

Based on the questions we always have on the above the elements of measurement, during this Indaba, we will have a full discussion on the Norms and standards for Grant Funding.

One of the things that the Board focused on since the last Indaba has been to fine-tuning our monitoring mechanisms so that we can root out canning activities of those who deprive our most vulnerable people of critical services by the virtue of their fraudulent activities. To this end, yesterday was dedicated to sharing strategies with



different stake holders on how this scourge can be eradicated in this important organisation.

We urge you to be vigilant, to jealously help to guard the resources of the NLB and to report any wrong doing that you are aware of in terms of money allocated to different projects.

At our last meeting in 2013, I stressed the need for beneficiaries to actively investigate alternative funding models so that the National Lotteries Board is not the only source or indeed a permanent funding mechanism for beneficiary operations. This means that education and development of skills is critical for your survival, and indeed ours. As at the 2013 Indaba, we continue to receive requests that exceed R 70 billion for funding, yet only R 2 billion is available in any given financial year. This further impresses how important the need for development and alternative funding is. Your development means the development of others, and ultimately will allow us to cater to the increasing needs of our society.

Our financial situation has not changed materially since our last encounter. We continue to receive, each year, requests for financial assistance in the region of R70 billion, well in excess of the mere R2 billion available for distribution in any given financial year.

In the year that we celebrated 20 years of democracy as a nation, the NLB also came to a significant milestone. But I want to assure you that reaching this point has not, and will not make us complacent. Instead, looking back at our 15 years of social upliftment only drives us to want to have more impact. We have achieved much, but so much more can be done, and it is through such platforms as the Indaba, that we have an opportunity to plan that way forward with you, the people that are at the coal face of tackling South Africa's socio-economic issues.

Looking at the next 15 years, we hope to have an even wider reach. We will continue to fight the scourge of fraud and corruption and will not relent, we will adhere to our values



as an organisation and ensure that we live up to our mandate, and we will work in partnership with others to ensure that we are a constructive part of attaining the goal of Vision 2030 – to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality through the National Development Plan.

20 years later, the words of Tata Nelson Mandela at his inauguration still ring true today: “We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world”.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding of the challenges that we encounter in discharging our mandate as the National Lotteries Board. Remember, however that challenges are meant to be overcome. Last year I spoke about the Road less Travelled, I still affirm today we have travelled a long, at times difficult, but empowering road, and our track record says unambiguously that we shall emerge victorious in the end.

Thank you