

**Speech by the RTMC Chairman Zola Majavu at the Long Service Awards Gala Dinner**

**30 November 2018**

**Royal Elephant Hotel, Centurion**

**Members of the RTMC Board**

**The Chief Executive Officer**

**Members of the Executive**

**Managers**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Evening,**

Today is not a day of long speeches. It is time to celebrate the long journey we have travelled together and honour the forerunners who paved the way for us. These men and women were the first to answer when a clarion call was made to establish an agency to promote safety on South African roads.

Some of the pioneers we are honouring have been in the public service for up to 40 years and their presence here this evening is a sign of enduring loyalty and commitment to the government and the cause of developing this country.

Some of you would ask how is it possible that we recognize 20 and 40-year service when the RTMC began operating in 2005. You will remember that in 2017/18 financial year, the Corporation acquired two entities, namely C-BRTA and Boekenhoutkloof Traffic Training College, voetstoots in terms of the Section 197 of the Labour Relations Act. Accordingly,

we are required by law to recognize the service that these colleagues have served under their previous employers. This is a right thing to do because we are now one family.

It is a good thing to recognize and celebrate the contribution that people are making while they are still alive. Very often, we tell good stories about people when they are dead and cannot hear us. We are breaking away from that tradition tonight.

The RTMC is honoured to have men and women of your caliber. Without your hard work, dedication and commitment this Corporation would not be a respected entity that it is today. This long service award ceremony is therefore an opportunity for us who are members of the Board and the Executive to say thank you.

The Corporation sincerely appreciates your passion and commitment. I know that the path we have travelled has not always been easy. There were times when there was uncertainty, when the Corporation was threatened with closure and the future did not look promising. You did not jump ship. You stayed the course and look at where we are today. We have turned the corner and the future looks bright.

The past five years have been a period of rebuilding this Corporation, creating a supportive environment for all of you and establishing a culture of performance. It was a time of growth and we are grateful for the contribution that you made as staff members at every level. The Corporation appreciates the wonderful work you did and continue to do.

We have now entered a period of consolidation and achieving excellence. We have big dreams to take this Corporation to greater heights and we will be relying on your team spirit and motivation to continue building this Corporation up. So let us keep the good work and not allow ourselves to be distracted by naysayers who oppose everything good that we try to do. Always remember that what we do today is not for ourselves, it is for the next generation.

We have a duty and responsibility to ensure that our grandchildren and great grandchildren inherit a better world that we found. We can build that better world by taking full advantage of the little opportunities we are given today and achieving excellence in the silos that we are assigned to work from. We must always keep in mind the words of the great Greek philosopher Aristotle when he said:

*“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”*

Congratulations to those that are receiving the awards this evening. I have no doubt that the token of appreciation you will be receiving will go a long way in ensure that your Christmas Holidays become a joyous occasion.

Understanding that you will soon be taking a well-deserved festive season break, I want to take this opportunity to wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to many more years of working together with you to sustain the growth of this Corporation.

I thank you.