



MINISTRY
PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MINISTER N. KIVIET SPEECH AT THE
IMVUSELELO 3RD ANNUAL
ECUMENICAL AWARDS ON THE 25TH
NOVEMBER 2023 AT 18H00 IN
ABBORTSFORD CHRISTIAN CENTER IN
EAST LONDON EASTERN CAPE**

Programme Director , Bishop Dr Mandla Makhubalo

King Dalimvula Matanzima , Aah Dalimvula

MEC for Education , Honourable Fundile Gade

Speaker of Buffalo City , Cllr Macegwana

Mayors of Enyandeni and Makana Municipalities

Chaiman of Imvuselelo Foundation , Right Rev Mpumelelo Qwabaza

Bishop Bongani Xhalabile

Bishop Mbulelo Bheyi

Rev Dr Allan Nyoni

Clergymen and Clergywomen

Awards Recipients

Honourable Guests

Family and Friends

Good Evening

It gives great sense of honour and pride to be part of this important event of Imvuselelo Foundation Annual Awards. It is not only about honouring those who have made a difference but also to endeavour to restore back confidence to the people that indeed nothing can happen without religion and spirituality in our lives.

The foundation as a non-membership based organisation working with all church bodies and civil society remains strategic to revitalise the prophetic Ministry of the church and to build a visible unity of the church through coordinating Church's response and advocacy.

Your programs through dialogues , training on many areas including phycological support , conflict management , theology on the streets , supporting the struggle of economic justice , moral renewal of our society , capacity building and many others continue to make an indelible mark in our communities. Keep up the good work.

Imvuselelo is not only important for the religious fraternity but for the entire nation as it revives and connect people with the reality of reviving their conscience and consciousness.

Ladies and Gentlemen allow me to request this gathering to stand just for a minute to observe a moment of silence in honour of the people of Palestine who continue to loose their lives , lets all pray for peace and for an end to that senseless brutality . In the same vein we must remember the learners who were killed in two different occasions in Gqeberha who was shot whilst coming to study for the GRADE 12 exams and those were killed and robbed in Mdantsane whilst studying for their exams.

These challenges needs all of us to stand up and confront the crime that is engulfing our society. Crime has been taken to churches as some have been burgled and worshippers robbed and gun point.

In another incident in the Western Cape the Reverend what shot dead during the church ceremony . Where are we going , what are we doing , and what has gone wrong.

Imvuselelo is a form of liturgy that is distinct from the traditional , conventional one. Tiyo Soga as the first Black Minister harnessed African songs , poetry , dance and stories to appropriate the meaning of the gospel in the context of the battle between colonial , missionary culture and isiXhosa culture.

Imvuselelo could be reasonably interpreted as part of the heritage of black theology of liberation bequeathed by the father of blackness and Africinity in South Africa.

Imvuselelo is an IsiXhosa word or concept which means revival or renewal. It is the word that carries the import of energy. Imvuselelo has also gained political currency and it is also used by the African National Congress for the revival and renewal of its structures.

For the ANC it is political renewal whereas in the context of the Foundation it carries profound theological connotations in its roots.

To reiterate , it is a liturgical form of Christian service popular among the black Africans in all churches. In our times people refer to the ANC as a broad church. Imvuselelo is thus a significant ecclesia political symbol we cannot overlook for the task of black public theology of liberation today. It integrates the spiritual and the political.

These 3rd Ecumenical Annual Awards started in 2017 with the launch of the foundation. They present a new way of producing theology and continue to make a change in the recipients of the awards. We must garner support from all corners of our society to render both moral and material support to the cause of the Foundation.

As we are gathered here today to honour men and women who have made a change for the better in our society through various way and means , we should not loose sight of these challenges.

Award ceremonies are always special occasions. They are a time to celebrate success , to reflect on hard work and to show appreciation for contribution of others. The journey towards success is always not easy worse for the accomplishment of a project of this magnitude.

Right from the moment when this idea was conceived to the outline of these awards which was initiated sometime ago and up until today was not easy. Transforming the idea to the real output required a good deal of efforts and various challenges came in the way.

As Imvuselelo Foundation you have overcome every problem and challenges which have now become the milestone for you.

Imvuselelo Foundation work is well known and its contribution to the restoration of the moral fibre and ethics in our society. In the society where innocent and beautiful dreams are buried through hate , crime , corruption and lawlessness we are aware of your strides and your responsibility to build a better society.

Apart of the immense encouragement it gives you in your work as the foundation , it also gives us all platform from which we must and will continue to spread the message of interfaith , encourage other fellow organisations to carry the light of love for the other , wherever you go. I am deeply encouraged by the work you do and continue to do and your zeal to always strive to do better and to be better.

Dr Bery's Anne Cargan has this to say during the World Interfaith Prize Giving Ceremony :

“Back then I used to think that interfaith is something we do , but now I realise it is something we are . I used to think that peace building was something we do , but now I realise that we are all the bridges to peace. I use to think that diversity was something we are , but now I realise that Diversity is what we do “.

We do diversity every time we show kindness and understanding to a fellow human being who is different from us , but we are kind anyway , Kind enough and curious enough to engage.

Ladies and gentlemen and honoured guests , there are no words to describe how humbled and proud I feel to be here I feel revived . The true and most priceless gift lies in the acknowledgement of your work through this Annual Awards ceremony , and that gift belongs not only to you but to every man and woman who dreams of a better life and a life where justice prevails.

Lets continue to be the torch bearers of goodwill in every corner of our society. Lets do that through intensive programs in partnership with all role players that will bring back morality and a peaceful society free of crime , corruption , lawlessness and racism.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the awards , do best and be the best and may you all be blessed. I salute you all for what you have achieved , your lives will never be the same.

I thank you.