EIGHT BATHO PELE PRINCIPLES TO KICKSTART THE TRANSFORMATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The Public Service will put the following "People First" principles into practice without delay. And we will step up implementation to arrive at acceptable service levels and quality as soon as possible.

1. CONSULTATION
You can tell us what you want from us.

You will be asked for your views on existing public services and may also tell us what new basic services you would like. All levels of society will be consulted and your feelings will be conveyed to Ministers, MECs and legislators.

THE PRINCIPLE: You should be consulted about the level and quality of the public services you receive and, wherever possible, should be given a choice about the services that are offered.

2. SERVICE STANDARDS
Insist that our promises are kept.

All national and provincial government departments will be required to publish service standards for existing and new services. Standards may not be lowered! They will be monitored at least once a year and be raised progressively.

THE PRINCIPLE: You should be told what level and quality of public services you will receive so that you are aware of what to expect.

3. ACCESS
One and all should get their fair share.

Departments will have to set targets for extending access to public servants and public services. They should implement special programmes for improved service delivery to physically, socially and culturally disadvantaged persons.

THE PRINCIPLE: You and all citizens should have equal access to the services to which you are entitled.

4. COURTESY
Don't accept insensitive treatment.

All departments must set standards for the treatment of the public and incorporate these into their Codes of Conduct, values and training programmes. Staff performance will be regularly monitored, and discourtesy will not be tolerated.

THE PRINCIPLE: You should be treated with courtesy and consideration.

5. INFORMATION
You're entitled to full particulars.

You will get full, accurate and up-to-date facts about services you are entitled to. Information should be provided at service points and in local media and languages. Contact numbers and names should appear in all departmental communications.

THE PRINCIPLE: You should be given full, accurate information about the public services you are entitled to receive.

6. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY
Administration must be an open book.

You'll have the right to know. Departmental staff numbers, particulars of senior officials, expenditure and performance against standards will not be secret. Reports to citizens will be widely published and submitted to legislatures.

THE PRINCIPLE: You should be told how national and provincial departments are run, how much they cost, and who is in charge.

7. REDRESS
Your complaints must spark positive action.

Mechanisms for recording any public dissatisfaction will be established and all staff will be trained to handle your complaints fast and efficiently. You will receive regular feedback on the outcomes.

THE PRINCIPLE: If the promised standard of service is not delivered, you should be offered an apology, a full explanation and a speedy and effective remedy. When complaints are made, you should receive a sympathetic, positive response.

8. VALUE FOR MONEY
Your money should be employed wisely.

You pay income, VAT and other taxes to finance the administration of the country. You have the right to insist that your money should be used properly. Departments owe you proof that efficiency savings and improved service delivery are on the agenda.

THE PRINCIPLE: Public services should be provided economically and efficiently in order to give you the best possible value for money.