

Thabo Mbeki

Quotes

*People, Government, Country, Needs, Issues, Thinking, Years, Black, Past,
Challenges, Important, Impact, Rights, Land, Views, Growth, Law, Matter,
Problem, Trying*

Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best of times.

~Thabo Mbeki

Our experience over the last 20 years has shown that indeed people must themselves become their own liberators. You cannot wait for somebody else to come and rescue you.

~Thabo Mbeki

We should never become despondent because the weather is bad, nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines.

~Thabo Mbeki

As Africans, we need to share common recognition that all of us stand to lose if we fail to transform our continent.

~Thabo Mbeki

When will the day come that our dignity will be fully restored, when the purpose of our lives will no longer be merely to survive until the sun rises tomorrow!

~Thabo Mbeki

Many of our own people here in this country do not ask about computers, telephones and television sets. They ask - when will we get a road to our village.

~Thabo Mbeki

Does HIV cause AIDS? Can a virus cause a syndrome? How? It can't, because a syndrome is a group of diseases resulting from acquired immune deficiency.

~Thabo Mbeki

A global human society, characterised by islands of wealth, surrounded

by a sea of poverty, is unsustainable

~Thabo Mbeki

None dare challenge me when i say i am an Afrikan.

~Thabo Mbeki

The problem is not a lack of understanding of what we are saying and doing; the problem is difference of opinion about what to do.

~Thabo Mbeki

We do not accept that human society should be constructed on the basis of a savage principle of the survival of the fittest

~Thabo Mbeki

I think that probably the most important thing about our education was that it taught us to question even those things we thought we knew.

~Thabo Mbeki

The poor prey on one another because their lives offer no hope and communicate the tragic message to these human beings that they have no possibility to attain a decent standard of living.

~Thabo Mbeki

We are not being arrogant or complacent when we are said that our country, as a united nation, has never in its entire history, enjoyed such a confluence of encouraging possibilities.

~Thabo Mbeki

South Africa now needs skilled and educated people to say 'How do we manage and develop this democratic country?'

~Thabo Mbeki

If we only said safe sex, use a condom, we won't stop the spread of AIDS in this country.

~Thabo Mbeki

The people of Zimbabwe have a responsibility to ensure that the government that they elected behaves properly.

~Thabo Mbeki

South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

~Thabo Mbeki

That surely must be a concern to anyone who decides this drug must be given to stop transmissions, again from mother to child, which is extremely costly and must be taken into account.

~Thabo Mbeki

The principal investors in the South African economy are South Africans. And this is something, I think, we should really pay attention to.

~Thabo Mbeki

As a consequence of the victories we have registered during our first ten years of freedom, we have laid a firm foundation for the new advances we must and will make during the next decade.

~Thabo Mbeki

Those who oppressed us described us as the Dark Continent!

~Thabo Mbeki

If you don't understand history, you will not be able to deal with today's issues.

~Thabo Mbeki

In Africa you have space...there a profound sense of space here, space and sky

~Thabo Mbeki

I was very fortunate to be able to go to school and university, because many people our age couldn't complete school. This gift of education must be used in whatever ways we can to uplift the people.

~Thabo Mbeki

The matter of who governs Zimbabwe is a matter that is in the hands of the people of Zimbabwe.

~Thabo Mbeki

If you sit in a position where decisions that you take would have a serious effect on people, you can't ignore a lot of experience around the world which says this drug has these negative effects.

~Thabo Mbeki

We will continue to count on your unwavering support and commitment to working with leaders of our continent in bringing about the desired renaissance of Africa.

~Thabo Mbeki

It's very worrying at this time in the world that any point of view should be prohibited, that's banned, there are heretics that should be burned at the stake.

~Thabo Mbeki

For the first time in human history, society has the capacity, the knowledge and the resources to eradicate poverty

~Thabo Mbeki

As I said, the matter of the Pan African Parliament was raised with us by other African countries who said we should host.

~Thabo Mbeki

I am quite convinced that we need to increase the resources that go to municipalities if we want the municipalities to do the things the

Constitution and the law say they must do. It can't be avoided.

~Thabo Mbeki

South Africa was to evolve into the most pernicious example of the criminal practise of colonial and white minority domination.

~Thabo Mbeki

It's a big problem in South Africa up to this day: many people want to open factories, they want to invest, but then they discover that they don't have the skilled people to employ.

~Thabo Mbeki

Those communal areas have got elected municipalities, which have got to do their work as, as fully, democratically elected municipal councils.

~Thabo Mbeki

It is difficult to discuss... history.. it is more difficult to talk about today.. simple thingsâ€¦

~Thabo Mbeki

The National Empowerment Fund we established some time back. And one of the challenges was to build a strong enough asset base for it to operate in a credible manner. And we believe that it can.

~Thabo Mbeki

Haiti was a French colony, but in 1804, the slaves rose up and defeated the French and formed the Republic. For the last 200 years, Haiti has had a very unfortunate history.

~Thabo Mbeki

We have to continue to confront the challenge of corruption within the public service.

~Thabo Mbeki

We very constantly run this campaign to encourage people to go and get Identity Documents, to register, and so on. We'll continue to do that.

~Thabo Mbeki

We are a very big mining country and historically have been exporters of raw minerals. There is no particular reason why we should not be processing those further.

~Thabo Mbeki

There must be public servants who are working regularly among the people.

~Thabo Mbeki

Science is always inquiring.

~Thabo Mbeki

One of the things that became clear, and which was actually rather disturbing, was the fact that there was a view which was being expressed by people whose scientific credentials you can't question

~Thabo Mbeki

Our troops are in Burundi. We were requested by African countries who said, look, the United Nations is not moving on this matter, can you people deploy people, so we can move Burundi forward.

~Thabo Mbeki

I would regret it if I'd failed at school and university, because if I had, I would have lacked the levels of education necessary to making a serious contribution to building South Africa.

~Thabo Mbeki

A modern economy and society requires skilled people, so you need to train them.

~Thabo Mbeki

Procurement policies of all of the major parastatals, it is a very important element of that processes that will continue.

~Thabo Mbeki

We are quite convinced, and we say this to the Palestinians, that violence is not going to solve the problem of Israel and the Middle East. We say that to the Israelis. We say it to the Palestinians.

~Thabo Mbeki

I don't suppose I would describe myself as a showman.

~Thabo Mbeki

We need to increase the capacity; we need to improve performance so that we are more effective at lending that kind of support.

~Thabo Mbeki

South Africa has faced many problems in the past. You would understand those problems if you understood the history of the struggle to get rid of Apartheid and the struggle to establish democracy.

~Thabo Mbeki

You can see that there is an increase in the volume of freight that moves by air. And so, we have got to solve the problem by making sure that that is done properly.

~Thabo Mbeki

I don't think there would be many examples of South Africa pushing its weight around the African Continent. I don't think the facts would substantiate that argument.

~Thabo Mbeki

Part of the issue around communal land, which became a matter of

controversy, is that we are saying that this land must go back to communities. Not chiefs and traditional leaders.

~Thabo Mbeki

I must say also, that we are not talking just about foreign investors.

~Thabo Mbeki

Clearly, we are very, very concerned about the situation, for instance, that has been going on in Gaza.

~Thabo Mbeki

The engagements with the International Investment Council have developed in a very interesting way. It is, again, the point I raised at the beginning.

~Thabo Mbeki

We want the National Intelligence, we want the Police, we want the Scorpions, any other institutions, the tax people, and so on, the totality of these bodies, to get together.

~Thabo Mbeki

I have absolutely no problem with the press criticising policies and the things that we do, the things that we say.

~Thabo Mbeki

The matter of social security and these grants is to help to address the levels of poverty in the country.

~Thabo Mbeki

If you look at government policy generally, what government tries to do in all instances is to make sure that we take care of all elements that might relate to a particular issue.

~Thabo Mbeki

While the WTO negotiations will continue, there are other trade negotiations of a bilateral nature, which among other things, should help to open up these markets for South African products.

~Thabo Mbeki

We would take the same position as the majority of the world about this, including this issue where Prime Minister [Ariel] Sharon made a commitment to pull Israeli troops out of Gaza.

~Thabo Mbeki

The matter of who governs Zimbabwe is a matter that is in the hands of the people of Zimbabwe. The matter of who governs the people of South Africa is in the hands of the people of South Africa.

~Thabo Mbeki

There is a very long list of parties in this year's election, some of the parties I have never heard of.

~Thabo Mbeki

The matter of people being attracted to other countries is a permanent problem in my view, it doesn't only face South Africa. A whole lot of countries in the world are faced with this problem.

~Thabo Mbeki

A democratic government in South Africa is not a threat to white people.

~Thabo Mbeki

You have to make sure that [grants] reach people by virtue of their Identity Documents.

~Thabo Mbeki

We were asked to host the Pan African Parliament and we agreed to this.

~Thabo Mbeki

We are very keen to see that nobody gets ill-treated or abused.

~Thabo Mbeki

Certainly the Government has tried to handle the matter of our relations with the rest of the Continent in a very sensitive manner.

~Thabo Mbeki

Of course we run a very open economy, and therefore what happens in the rest of the world, in economic terms, obviously has an impact on us.

~Thabo Mbeki

We are improving the entirety of the system. You have got to make the grants available.

~Thabo Mbeki

We would continue to handle our relations with the rest of the Continent with that kind of sensitivity.

~Thabo Mbeki

You can see now with all the assurance that people have about the overall general management of the economy, they then ask more specific questions that we are able to answer.

~Thabo Mbeki

The parastatals are an important driver of the process of Black Economic Empowerment and they have been doing it, and will continue to do it.

~Thabo Mbeki

Really, a critical matter in the public service is radically to improve the quality of management.

~Thabo Mbeki

With me, as a town clerk or city manager, there are certain things that I'm supposed to do - if I don't do them, then I don't deserve to continue in this post.

~Thabo Mbeki

Your developed countries are taking teachers from South Africa, they are taking nurses, because people are better paid where they are going.

~Thabo Mbeki

The public service needs lots of people, South Africa generally, needs lots of people.

~Thabo Mbeki

The King had been a good friend of the government and the people of South Africa and we all mourn his passing with our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia.

~Thabo Mbeki

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