



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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**2019 STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
CLLR KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA HELD AT MATLALA
DICHOEUNG TRIBAL AUTHORITY ON THE 15TH MARCH 2019,
12:00PM.**

Honourable Speaker of Council, Cllr Maria Manamela;

Honourable Members of the Mayoral Committee;

Your Worship Mayors of our Four Local Municipalities;

The Chief Whip of Council Cllr Tseke Lepota;

Speakers and Chief whips of our four Local Municipalities;

Chair of Chairs Cllr Oginia Mafefe;

Chairperson of Municipal Public Accounts Committee Cllr Kukie Sefala;

Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees and Honourable Councillors;

Members of Parliament, Members of the Provincial Legislature present and MECs;

The Regional Secretary of the ANC in Sekhukhune Mr Jerry Maseko and other members of the Regional Executive Committee;

Leadership of all our Tripartite Alliance structures;

Leaders of political parties represented in Council;

Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders;

Acting CEO and Board Members of Sekhukhune Development Agency;

Municipal Manager Mme Norah Maseko and your Senior Managers;

District Senior Managers from our Sector Departments;

Business community and Religious bodies;

Employees of our Municipalities and Officials of Sector Departments;

Friends from the Media;

Comrades, Compatriots, Ladies and Gentleman

Good Afternoon, Thobela, Lotshani!

Honourable Speaker

Once again, please allow me to express my sincere words of appreciation for being given this opportunity, during this important occasion, to present the 2019 State of the District Address. Indeed I am deeply honoured to address this august house.

Today's presentation of the '**citizen's report**' is unleashed in line with the 7th February 2019 presentation of the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and the State of the Province Address by Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha on the 22nd February 2019.

And we are therefore here to take the people of Sekhukhune into confidence and our approach is to report on how far the district has fared since the August 2016 Local government elections. We have carefully selected this approach because this era marks exactly **two and half years** since the Fourth Council was elected into office.

And therefore, it is befitting that the 2019 State of the District Address is focussed in the main on **Mid Term Report**, however, touch on achievements and challenges since the 2018 State of the District Address and highlight on the plans for the year ahead, that is the 2019-2020 financial year.

And all the above-mentioned need to find correct expression in the **2016 African National Congress** election manifesto. That is when we pledged to work together with our communities to advance the principles of democratic local government.

This approach is relevant because as ANC led Council, we are bound to report on successes, challenges and way forward to the people who elected us to be the majority party in this 4th Council of Sekhukhune District. And that is what we are precisely doing. The people shall govern.

Honourable Councillors

We have gathered here today during **Human Rights Month**, as declared by our non-racial, non-sexist, free and democratic South African government. During this month we are reminded about the sacrifices that were made for the attainment of this freedom.

We recall the events that took place on the 21st March 1960, where communities of Sharpville and Langa townships joined their fellow compatriots across the country to protest against the pass laws and other forms of racial discrimination.

And as a result, 69 protestors were shot dead by apartheid police at Sharpville while many were killed across the country. And the tragedy was referred to as 'Sharpville massacre'.

That is why our democratic government has since declared 21st March as Human Rights Day, flowing into March as Human Rights month so that, we can commemorate and honour those who fought and lost their lives for our freedom.

Today, as a people we enjoy rights like, equality, human dignity, freedom of movement and residence, language and culture and the right to life mainly because of the sacrifices made by these fallen heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle.

We dip our banners as we salute the generation of **Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Elias Motsoaledi**, the generation of **Nkosi Albert Luthuli and Sefako Makgatho**, the generation of **Lilian Ngoyi and Sophy Du Bryn**, the generation of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, we salute the generation of Mohumagadi Madinoge and the 1958 Sebatakgomo Uprisings. And we wish our

comrade veteran Ntate John Kgwana Nkadimeng good health, long life and strength to soldier on.

Honourable Speaker

We are here at gaKgosi Matlala, Dichoeung village, to **honour** our esteemed Kgosi Matlala '**Nape'a Kanyane**'. We are also here to reignite the spirits of your departed sons and daughters of the soil, who played significant role in the struggle for liberation.

I therefore wish to honour the generation of the **late Ephraim Phorogohlo Mogale, the late Rodger Diphofa, the late Menemene Leso, the late Brown Matlala, the late Shakes Mashaba, the late Phillip Aphane, the late Rosinah Tshikubu, the late comrade veteran Nkopodi Phahlane, and the late comrade Fanie Lekola.** May their revolutionary souls rest in eternal peace.

We are the mighty Sekhukhune Region and we pride ourselves with our liberation heritage. That is why today we wish to re-ignite the spirits of all our heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle in the quest to develop and grow our district to greater heights.

My Fellow Councillors

We have said that ours is a council that is based on the trajectory of **renewal and growth**, as President Ramaphosa has mandated us. And we have committed ourselves to adhere to the principles of **transparency and accountability**. As we grow South Africa together.

We said we will achieve all the above, guided by principles of the Freedom Charter, the National Development Plan (Vision 2030), Unity, Renewal and Jobs. Our generation is equal to this task through our resilience and determination to serve our people.

Making his clarion call of **Thuma Mina** campaign, President Ramaphosa, mandate us into action. And our focus should be on areas where we have comparative advantage. And ours is to inject urgency as we grow our economy and develop the nation.

Honourable Speaker

Ours is a conscious decision to take our people forward because we have journeyed together far too long. And in 2016, we have said '**we will advance people's power in and through local government**'. That was the basis for our elections manifesto.

As I have already said the year 2019, specifically the month of February, marks the Mid-Term for the 4th democratic Council of Sekhukhune District Municipality as elected on the 3rd and sworn in on the 16th August 2016.

It was on the 16th August 2016 at Groblersdal Agricultural Hall, were I presented my maiden speech. And my speech was in line with the ruling party, African National Congress 2016 elections manifesto.

And the following are among the **key policy statements** that we have since made:

- That we will ensure the provisioning of sustainable basic services. And we said we will achieve this by eliminating the culture of roll overs, fruitless expenditures, strengthen internal capacity of Infrastructure and Water Services in terms of planning, project management and monitoring;
- That we will unlock the blockages in mega water projects such as Moutse Bulk Water supply, Mooi-hoek Scheme, Nkadimeng Scheme, De Hoop scheme, Ga-Malekane Bulk pipeline, to name but a few;

- That we will ensure sound financial management, by improving the liquidity ratio of the district municipality, enhance revenue collection management and move to clean audit opinion from the Auditor General in the next two years;
- That we will accelerate economic development. And here we carefully selected catalytic projects such as De Hoop Dam, Agricultural schemes, heritage and liberation heritage sites as point of interests to be unlocked;
- That we will change the status quo in the mining industry to ensure that there is beneficiation and black people participate in real economic empowerment project;
- That we will remodel and capacitate Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) to fulfil its mandate as a vehicle for economic development and growth of our district municipality.
- That we will give special attention to Spatial Development and Land Use Management. And here we committed ourselves that land for office development in Jane Furse is secured within one year. And we have also pledged to strengthen planning in the district in collaboration with our Traditional Leaders, through SPLUMA;
- We have said that we will enhance public participation, sports and cultural development in our villages in order to cultivate the culture of unity, social cohesion and national building;
- And we also pledged to confront the toxic mix of corruption, fraud and mal-administration. This we have said will be achieved as we inculcate the culture of patriotic workforce and eliminating rotten potatoes from our system by applying consequence management, to name but a few.

People of Sekhukhune

You have supported us throughout these two and half year period. We are here to report that we have indeed made significant progress on the above-mentioned cardinal points. Save to say that we have also encountered some surmountable challenges in the process and we were able to put in turn around strategies and acceleration plans. Sekhukhune today is better than it was in 1994.

Thuma Mina

Honourable Speaker

During the 2018 State of the District Address, I have reported on how I have managed to respond to the Presidential call of **Thuma Mina**. That's when I reported about a descent home and my adoption of needy **Matlala family** in Phokwane.

Today, I am pleased to report that I have completed and officially handed over a second fully furnished descent house to **Mogola family** at Maseven village on the 31st July 2018. I have also committed to support that family with their basic needs.

In addition to that, I am also pleased to report that we have completed building a **third descent house** for **needy Phala** family at Tsimanyane village. The house is awaiting furniture and together we will hand it over to the family very soon. We are filled with pride due to these achievements Honourable Coucillors.

Almighty God willing and funds permitting, we commit ourselves to touch many needy lives in the future. And our Thuma Mina campaigns across the district municipality have so far stretched to cemeteries and pay points in the following villages:

- Glen Cowie, 4 VIP toilets in their cemetery were completed;
- Masanteng, 3 VIP toilets in their cemetery were completed;
- Ga-Makgeru, got 2 VIP toilets in their cemetery;

- Ga-Ratau, got 2 VIP toilets in their cemetery;
- Ntwane village, received 2 VIP toilets in their pay point;
- Motete village, received 2 VIP toilets in their pay point; to name but a few.

Added to that, our Thuma Mina campaign, resulted in **unlocking water challenges** at Ga-Masemola, Thaba Mpshe section, Maseven village, to name a but a few. And we are anticipating to touch more lives this year moving forward.

Economy and LED projects

Madam Speaker

I believe that all of us had a chance to listen to the **maiden Budget Speech** by Honourable Minister Tito Mboweni on the 21st February 2019 and the **provincial budget speech** by MEC of Finance Honourable Rob Tooley on the 06th March 2019. The tone from the two honourable members is common in the sense that our country is still under **technical recession**.

And this technical recession is characterised by increasing cost of living as evident through rising prices of food and fuel. And this worrying economic outlook underpinned by weaker rand against foreign currencies, was also an imperative subject matter during both SONA and SOPA. Because in the main it affects the poor, working class and indeed all of us.

However **Madam Speaker**, I am delighted to report that following our July 2018 **international Investment Tour** with the Honourable Premier of our province to the **People's Republic of China**, results are currently beginning to emerge.

This is because in January this year 2019, I had an honour of welcoming a delegation from Shanxi Province here in our Sekhukhune. The visit was mainly a follow-up on the two Memorandum of Intent that we have signed. We are also hosting a second delegation in the incoming few weeks as part of this collaboration.

We are currently waiting for their feedback which will lead us into signing Memorandums of Understanding in order to actualise this important trade and investment partnership.

At the core of our common interest with the Chinese is to attract their investment and agree on strategic partnership that will benefit us as we push for Tubatse as Special Economic Zone. I will report progress that we have made on SEZ later. We are still committed to our resolve that our district municipality has three comparative advantages, namely **mining, agriculture and tourism**. And that is our focus.

Honourable Councillors

Coming back to our latest economic figures, we are pleased to announce that we have recorded Gross Domestic Product of R41 billion in 2017 (up from R16.5 billion in 2007), we have contributed 12.22% to the Limpopo Province GDP of R336 billion in 2017, increasing in the share of the Limpopo GDP from 11.75% in 2007.

Also of utmost importance is that we are contributing 0.88% to the GDP of South Africa which had a total GDP of R4.65 trillion in 2017. Our contribution to the national economy stayed similar in importance from 2007 when it contributed 0.78% to South Africa, but it is lower than the peak of 0.94% in 2011.

We can and we should double our contribution towards GDP in the next three to five years given our strategic comparative advantages.

In 2017, SDM achieved an annual growth rate of 3.07% which is a significantly higher GDP growth than the Limpopo Province's 1.80%, and is higher than that of South Africa, where the 2017 GDP growth rate was 1.32%. Our comparatively high economic growth is indicative of our potential and gives an edge in terms of the future investments and job creation in the district.

Our district municipality had a total GDP of R41 billion and in terms of total contribution towards Limpopo Province. And unfortunately, we ranked lowest relative to all the regional economies in terms of contribution to total Limpopo Province GDP. Our task fellow councillors and people of Sekhukhune is to change this picture and write a new narrative in order to uplift our people out of abject poverty and unemployment.

And working together, this current generation must endeavour to achieve as this task. We need to leave a lasting legacy of resilience and deliverables to our people.

ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECAST

We are told that our economic growth will grow at an average annual rate of 3.48% from 2017 to 2022. The average annual growth rate of Limpopo Province and South Africa is expected to grow at 1.85% and 1.58% respectively. In 2022, Sekhukhune's forecasted GDP will be an estimated R33.6 billion or 13.7% of the total GDP of the Province.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

In his speech during SONA 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa has dwelled much on the thorny issue of **unemployment** in our country, particularly its detrimental effects on young people and women. And we are saying that here in Sekhukhune we are not immune from these unpalatable effects of joblessness.

In 2007, the unemployment rate for our district municipality was 40.5% and decreased overtime to 30.9% in 2017. And we are saying this figure represents a national problem that need government, private sector and communities to come up with innovative ways to tackle it.

We have since mandated our economic development unit together with Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) working together with both public and private sector to come up with **economic stimulus package** learning from the national initiative as part of our response to economic development and job creation.

On that note, we congratulate President Ramaphosa for hosting a successful **Investment Summit** that was blessed with R290billion investment commitments. Added to this is the R400 billion that was pledge by countries that the President has send his investment envoys will go a long way in boosting anf regenerating our economy.

Making the total committment of **R690 billion** which will be used to fuel the New Dawn project aimed at rebuilding our economy which is in technical recession. And we are saying that, we will henceforth honour the call by the President to identify bankable projects and compile **Investment Books**. And that will be submitted to the Premier.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Madam Speaker

As part of our resolve to troubleshoot the challenge of unemployment, our council has approved among others an initiative called **Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme**. As we have said last year 2018, during SODA, the ESDP is one of the five elements in the revised BBBEE codes of Good Practice.

B-BBEE Act seeks to advance economic transformation in South Africa. ESD means empowerment of black owned businesses to participate and contribute in the supply chain of medium to large companies in South Africa.

And progress to date is that, our district municipality has appointed three Professional Service Providers in July 2018, which are The Business Council, SizweNtsalubaGobodo and Affluence 12.

The municipality has entered into a three year contract with the PSPs which will end at the end of June 2021. The Business council is allocated Makhuduthamaga. Elias

Motsoaledi and Ephraim Magoale are both allocated to SizweNtsalubaGobodo and Affluence 12 is allocated Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the service providers on the modalities of this initiative has already been signed. And in November 2018 and January 2019, our local municipalities received full briefings on this initiative. And by the end of March 2019, we will advertise and call on interested parties to apply for these opportunities.

And to put cherry on top, we welcome the progressive pronouncement by the President that young people should be given a real head start into workplace, eradicating barriers that existed before. And we are very elated indeed.

AGRICULTURE

Madam Speaker

It is our firm belief as a country that one of the cardinal pillars of our economic growth and development lies in our ability to leverage opportunities that are available in agriculture. Hence we welcome pronouncements made by government on the emotive question of '**expropriation of land without compensation**'.

On our part, we are pleased to report that meaningful progress has been made regarding the establishment of the first Agri-Park in our district. So far, the 40 hectares of Portion 39 of Klipbank Farm in Groblersdal is ready to be developed for this purpose.

And to put concrete expression to this programme, two sites that have been identified at Vleeschboom and Praktiseer in Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse local municipalities respectfully, for establishment of Farmer Production Support Units, are also ready for this programme.

Currently the department is constructing Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) to

assist farmers around Vleeschboom area with facilities like storages, packing areas, washing and sorting as well as mechanization Centre to the value of R29 000 000.00. The project will be completed in September 2019.

Since Agri-park inception, farmers were mobilised and supported for increased production mostly in grains, poultry and horticulture. The most benefiting were those around Agri-hub in Groblersdal, Vleeschboom and Praktiseer Farmer Production Support Units.

Thus far, a total of R28 722 226.97 has been spent on 24 agricultural enterprises, benefiting 348 farmers on skills development and 593 people on temporary jobs creation. The support is still continuing in the 2019/20 financial year and it is anticipated that farmer enterprise support of around R8 million will be provided.

NARYSEC

Fellow Councillors

I am also elated to report that here in our district municipality, the youth skills development under the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) has since 2016/17 to date absorbed and trained 127 youth of 18-25 years of age into the youth training programme.

They are focusing on various agricultural and none-agricultural skills that will give support to the agri-park programmes. Another intake of 45 youth in the district is planned for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial year. The skilling of youth will in the long run sustain Agri-park programme and its objective of transforming the district rural economy which will benefit many.

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Honourable Speaker

Another project that is very close to my heart, which I have spoken about during SODA 2018 is - De Hoop Dam Resource Management Plan. This project has been approved on the 19th July 2017.

We have said then that plan will be used as a tool to utilized and manage the dam

for recreational purposes. We plan to promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental conservation and unlock socio-economic potential of the water resource. And so far, we have commissioned a feasibility study on aquaculture development in the De Hoop and Flag Boshielo Dams.

And last year, we have already appointed Urban Econ Development Economists to conduct a feasibility study at the two dams. The service provider submitted the final reports in October 2018.

And we are in the process of handing over the studies to Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) to secure operating partners and investors in order to commercialise the project.

TUBATSE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ)

Honourable Councillors

We have said as we unpacked the material conditions on the ground – our district municipality – that, the mining industry has seen trying times over the past few years although it continues to be one of the major economic sectors of the Limpopo Province and in particular our district.

Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) is still leading with abundance of mineral reserves that have attracted large scale mining giants such as in Anglo Platinum, Clencore, African Mineral Resources etc.

Progress regarding the Special Economic Zone project in Steelpoort Town is thus:

- The DTI has reviewed the application for Tubatse SEZ designation in September 2017 and identified gaps to be closed as per the application requirements;
- LEDA appointed the service provider Delta Consulting (Pty) Ltd on the 10th of May 2018 to review SEZ business plan to close the gaps relating to the value of the investment, economic impact, job creation and risks issues and also to

package application for resubmission to DTI;

- The comprehensive Business Plan was presented to the provincial task team on the 9 October 2018;
- DTI requested commitment letters from the mines, operational budget commitment from Provincial Treasury and financial projections from potential investors to form part of the application package to be submitted on the March 2019.

We are very serious on this because in our quest to create more black industrialists, projects like the **Mining Input Supplier Park**, in Steelpoort town, are very key. And we are on the right trajectory working together with the SDA, our special vehicle purpose.

2017/18 and 2018/19 FINALCIAL YEARS JOBS CREATED

Fellow Councillors

On the critical issue of job creation, we are reporting that it is work in progress. In the 2017/2018 financial year, the district municipality has through its various projects and programmes managed to create 800 job opportunities. And in the main, youth and women benefitted.

As at the 13th of February 2019 in the current financial year, work opportunities recorded on the EPWP Reporting System were as follows: 759 job opportunities. Out of the 759 jobs that were created, 421 were males and 338 females. Youth comprised 328 job opportunities and 1 person living with disabilities were employed.

This simply means that we are making a meaningful contribution towards tackling the challenge of unemployment and inequality, however, more still need to be done.

Jane Furse/Township

Honourable Members

We take this opportunity to report that the process of relocating our municipal offices from Groblersdal to Jane Furse is still underway and we are still committed to it.

Currently, we are in continuous negotiations with Bapedi ba Mamone Traditional Authority for the allocation of 10 hectares of land for the construction of District Municipal offices.

To date, the district has secured two development consent and community resolutions from two land claimants that is Monama CW and Batlokwa Ba Mogodumo. The two consent have since been sent to the offices of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner.

From there, the land claims commissioner will issue a final consolidated development consent before engaging Bapedi ba Mamone Traditional Council on the agreement and for their community resolution.

Honourable Councillors

Furthermore, we continue to work with the established provincial inter-ministerial committee and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality to negotiate with other land owners/holders around Jane Furse to identify more land for development of integrated sustainable human settlements.

And at the core of all of the above, is a political will to successfully implement this project as we have committed during our inaugural statement in August 2016. With these words, we wish to dismiss speculations that as the Fourth Council we have abandoned the relocation project with contempt it deserves. Because that is not true

Honourable Speaker

With your indulgence ofcourse, please allow me to reflect on some of the **hinderances** we are encountering when dealing with this important and emotional matter, of **spatial development** in our district municipality.

One, there are unresolved and competing land claims in the area and they threaten to defocus future development.

There is a sporadic and rapid increase of informal settlements and housing backlogs exarbitated by the growth in mining activities.

The question of competing land use, ie mining, agriculture, society and commercial, may cause spatial, social, environmental and economic constraints in future.

All the above coupled with poor environmental management and lack of proper coordination will turn Sekhukhune into something else in the future. It is therefore imperative that we intensify our efforts and work together as government, Traditional Leaders, communities and business to preserve this beautiful land of our forefathers.

The future of our country is in our hands and it depends on what we make use of it.

Infrastructure and Water

Setshaba sa Thulare

We have made a commitment during our inaugural address in 2016 that we will move with speed towards sustainable provisioning of basic services. And we are therefore mindful of the fact that water in our district municipality has for so long been a major challenge.

And all of us can remember that last year, 2018, our province was hit by drought and declared '**water disaster area**'. Coupled with our scientific prove that our ground water source has depleted, we are in real trouble indeed. We are a Water Services Authority (WSA) and Water Services Provider (WSP) in accordance with powers and functions in terms of the Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997.

And the current status quo is that we are providing full water and sanitation services in the main towns of Burgersfort (12 815 people), Marble Hall (4 025 people), Groblersdal (6 312 people), Steelpoort (3 374 people) and Ohrigstad (1 520 people). These areas have access to other high-level services such as refuse removal and roads.

In the main, majority of our villages in the far flung areas are being provided with ground water as alternative sources and water tankers where necessary. Most of the rural villages in the Flag Boshielo Water Scheme are receiving water services in a much more improved way than other rural areas.

In 2017-2018 financial year, a number of villages have begun benefitting from water provided by a main pipe from De Hoop Dam, namely: Mpelegane, Maepa, Ratau, Maphopha, Rantho, Masha, Malekana and Maseven. This is a notable progress as De Hoop dam's provision is beginning to reach villages.

Sanitation

Honourable Members

Here we have a good story to tell. The district municipality is currently implementing a massive sanitation programme and providing Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (VIP's) to various households. In the 2016-2017 to 2017/2018 financial year's, 22 400 VIP Sanitation units were built across the district as part of providing communities with sanitation.

INVESTMENTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT DURING 2017/18 TO 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEARS:

Honourable Members

During 2017/18 Financial Year, SDM Invested R779 million in Infrastructure development In terms of project planning & implementation.

The following infrastructure grants and equitable shares were spend during 2017/18 financial year on water and sanitation projects:

Municipal Infrastructure Grant (GRANT): R430 million:

- The SDM has implemented 11 water infrastructure project and 5 VIP sanitation projects during 2017/18 financial year.

Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG): R87 million

- The SDM has implemented 34 intervention water projects during 2017/18 financial year.

Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG): R 127 million

- The SDM has implemented 13 bulk water projects during 2017/18 financial year

Equitable Shares (EQ): R 218 million

- The SDM maintained and operated the existing infrastructure during 2017/18 financial year (This includes water pumps, motors, boreholes repairs, pipes burst replacement)

Most of the water Infrastructure projects commencing in 2017/18 and continued in 2018/19 Financial Year.

In the current 2018/19 financial year, SDM is investing R1 303 232 946.00 in infrastructure development in terms of project implementation.

The following infrastructure grants and equitable shares are committed to be spend in the current financial year on water and sanitation projects:

Municipal Infrastructure Grant (GRANT): R 464 million

- The SDM is currently implementing 13 -water infrastructure project and 4 VIP sanitation projects of around **5 500 units** during 2018/19 financial year.
- This projects include construction and installations of main water pipelines, water storages (reservoirs), pump stations and reticulation networks) in areas such as Zaaiplaas, Ga- Mashabela, Ga- Marishane, Lobethal, Ga Phaahla, Ga Maphopha and Lebalelo.

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Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG): R65 million

- The SDM is currently implementing 13 intervention water projects during 2018/19 financial year
- This projects include refurbishment, rehabilitation, extension and replacement of the existing water infrastructure in areas such as Tukakgomo, Phiring, Letebejane, Janefurse RDP, Maebe, Moretsele, Uitsspunning

Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG): R 208 million

- The SDM is currently implementing 13 bulk water projects during 2018/19 financial year
- This projects include construction and installations of bulk pipelines, bulk water storage and main pump stations in areas such as Burgersfort to Dresden, Praktiseer to Motodi to Alverton, Makgeru to Schoonoord and Malekane to Janefurse.

Equitable Shares (EQ): R223 126 409.00

- The SDM maintained and operated the existing infrastructure during 2018/19 financial year.
- The maintenance & operations includes the day-to-day provision of water services and planned maintenance on the existing water infrastructure.

BACKLOG ON ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN 2018/19 AS COMPARED TO 2017/18

The Sekhukhune District Municipality has the total population of 1 169 762 people with 194 962 household.

The Sanitation -Ventilated Pit-latrine (VIP) infrastructure backlog was at 155 238 in 2015/16 financial year and reduced by 17 481 in 2016/17 and reduced by further 4919 in 2017/18.

In Ephriam Mogale Local Municipality, 48 villages benefited in the last three Financial Years commencing from 2015/16 to 2017/18.

The beneficiaries are Disenyane, GaMasha, Mathukuthela, Greenside, Uitvlugte, Ga Ragopola, Matlala Ramoshebo A&B, Tshikanoshi, Matlereking, Rathoke, Uitvlught, Mbuzini, Mokgoaneng, Mamaneng, Matatadibeng, klopper, Goru, Puleng, Moeding, Mabitsi A, Vaalbank.

In Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, 58 villages benefited in the last three Financial Years commencing from 2015/16 to 2017/18.

The villages which benefitted are Ntswelemotse, Ten Morgan, Ngolovane, Zuma Park, Moteti Liberty, Moteti Homeland, Talane, Syverfontein, Makgopheng, Magukubjane, Mmotwaneng, Makwana, Nkakaboleng, Mathula, Nkosini, Dindela, Ga Matsepe, Ramogwerane, Dikgalaopeng, Makaepa, Phucukani, Taeren, Five Morgan, Ga -Molala, Dithabaneng, up until Kgobokwane, Magakadibeng, Matlala Lehwelere, Bapeding, Magagamatala, Ga-Kopa A, Mgababa A & B, Majaneng, to name but a few.

In Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, 38 villages benefited in the last three financial years commencing from 2015/16 to 2017/18:

Villages which benefited are Rietfontein, Maye, Mathousand, Mogorwane, Phushulang, Makgane, Dihlabaneng, Tshesane, Dinotshi, Maila Mapitsane, Mashegoane Legare, Mashegoane Tswaledi, Molepane, Mokwete, Malaka, Bothaspruit, Mathapisa, Kgaruthuthu, Soetveld, Marishane, Masehlaneng, Phaahla, Mamone-Matsoke, Pelepele Park, Mantlhanyane, Ga Moloji (Old villages), Manamane, Ga Mogashoa, Maloma, Seopela, Jane furse RDP, Mamone, Madibong, Maila Segolo, Phaahla, Diphagane A&B).

In Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, 83 villages benefited in the last three financial years commencing from 2015/16 to 2017/18.

Beneficiaries are at following villages: Ga-Kgwete A & B, Ribacross, Malokela, Masha A & B, Mashishi A&B, Mokgotho, Ga Seroka, Ga Radingwana, Mashilabela, Phahlamanoge, Mohlaletsi, Matshakaneng, Modimolle, Mashikwe, Magagamatala, Apel Sesehu, strydkraal A&B, covering the surrounding areas until Ga Maroga, Sekiti, Motlolo, Shakung, Ga Riba, Shushumela, Itirele, Mabotsha, Pidima, Ga Makofane, Praktiseer, up until Tukagomo to Ga- Maphahlane.

And currently our backlog stands at 132 838. And working together with our communities and all the social partners, we shall overcome.

Water backlog

Honourable Speaker

The Water infrastructure backlog was at 39% in 2015/16 financial year and reduced by 4% in 2016/17 and further reduced by further 5% in 2017/18. The water backlog is currently at 32%.

The water services backlogs fluctuates based on the availability of water and new residential developments are without water provision. The operation and maintenance patterns on the existing water infrastructure also affects the water services backlog remarkably.

KEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED DURING 2017/18 TO DATE

People of Sekhukhune

- We are continuing with the implementation of **Nkadimeng Bulk Water Supply Scheme**, which is currently at Phase 11 to complete the water pipeline and reticulation network.
- The commissioning and testing of bulk pipeline from Malekana Water Treatment Works to Jane Furse command reservoir under **Nebo Plateau Bulk Water Scheme** will be completed in 2018/2019 financial year.

As we do that, we have experienced challenges which in the main are:

- Breakdowns on pumps and motors along the pump stations;
- Replacement of electrical and mechanical components in the pump station along the bulk water pipeline;
- The contractor has since been put under business rescue, and therefore the completion of the testing and commissioning of the pipeline is on hold.

We have since agreed that the following will be measures that will be taken to troubleshoot the existing challenge:

- That consulting engineers will review the contractor's contract and advise us accordingly;
- That the situation dictates the termination of the contractor's contract;
- That we need to engage Lepelle Northern Water so that they can take over the commissioning and the testing of the bulk pipeline from Ga-Malekana to Jane Furse, once the process to terminate the current contractor's contract is completed.

- The construction of **Moutse Bulk Water Supply project** within Moutse East and West areas. This project is meant to provide bulk water supply to about 138 000 people in the Moutse East and approximately 44 000 people in the Moutse West. This project commenced in 2010/2011 financial year and it has since been hit hard by challenges. In the main those challenges are:

- The continuous legal disputes regarding the professional fees between the municipality and the consulting engineers;
- The limited supervision by the consulting engineers on the work done by the contractor (DWA Construction);
- The project also experienced poor workmanship by the contractor forcing us to terminate the contractor's contract;
- There were also delays caused by late delivery of material and approval of variation orders during the construction period and that had cost implications which negatively affected the project budget;

- And the accumulated delays resulted to financial claims by both the consulting engineers and the contractor.

All the above scientifically and otherwise is a thorn in our flesh. That is why we are planning to do the following in our endeavour to get the project to its completion stage:

- That the contract between the contractor – DWS Construction – and the municipality has to be extended or reviewed depending on the conclusion of the legal disputes between the consulting engineers and our municipality;
 - At this stage, an independent engineering specialist has been appointed to assess the project status and in conclusion of the assessment, a clear wayforward will be found
- The implementation of phase 4 for **Mooihoek-Tubatse Bulk Water Scheme** is continuing in the current financial, which includes the bulk pipelines and concrete reservoirs. This projects will be completed in the next financial of 2019/20.
 - The **Lebalelo South Bulk Water Scheme** commenced with construction in the current financial 2018/2019 and will be completed by June 2021.
 - The Phase 2 of the Lebalelo South Water Distribution and Reticulation scheme commenced in 2018/19 financial year and will be completed in 2019/2020/
 - The **Olifantspoort South Bulk Water Schemes** is currently under implementation at Phase 24 to complete the bulk pipeline and water distribution pipeline.

INCOMPLETE PROJECTS UNBLOCKED FROM PREVIOUS FINACIAL YEARS

Honourable Speaker

I have said in the opening that our journey since 2016 was that of mixed results, meaning that while we have recorded significant progress, we have also encountered some challenges.

Therefore, please allow me to report that the **Praktiseer water reticulation project** under Mooihoek-Tubatse Water Scheme has been unblocked and will be completed in the current financial 2018/2019. Residents know fully well that we have had enormous challenges while implementing this project, which included court cases.

Another one is the **Dindela reservoir and Bulk pipeline** under Zaaiplaas Bulk water sub-scheme which has also been unblocked and will be completed in 2019/2020 financial year. And the **Roosenekal Waste Water Treatment Works** has also been unblocked and will be completed in the current financial 2018/2019.

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SDMCDP) OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

Fellow Councillors

One of our flagship projects we have as the district municipality is the – contractor development programme. The main objective of the **SDM-CPD** is to increase the capacity, equity ownership, sustainability, quality and performance of CIDB registered contractors – effectively raising the contribution of the construction industry to South Africa's accelerated and shared growth initiative.

This shall be achieved by providing business opportunities and further training to historically disadvantaged (new and existing) contractors registered with CIDB in Grade 1 to 3 in the building industries thus ensuring that they become successful, independent contractors over time.

These contractors will then be expected to employ people from disadvantaged communities thus contributing to the reduction of unemployment and alleviation of poverty through the following factors:

- Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME's);
- Poverty alleviation;
- Job Creation;
- Local Economic Development;
- Skills Transfer; and
- Contractor Development.

This intervention will make a difference in the fight against unemployment within our district. It will also create entrepreneurs, as well as sustainable employment for the less and semi-skilled unemployed people.

The **SDM-CDP** will focus more on youth, women and people with disability to participate in the programme. The **SDM-CDP** will commence in the current financial 2018/19. Fifty two learner contractors will be provided with both construction and financial management skills and technical knowledge in project management.

The demographics of the beneficiaries is thus:

- In Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality
 - 5 male, 2 female, 1 disabled and 4 youth;
- In Elias Motsoaledi Municipality
 - 6 male, 10 female, 2 disabled and 14 youth;
- In Makhuduthamaga
 - 7 male, 6 female, 2 disabled and 12 youth; and
- Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality
 - 8 male, 8 female, 0 disabled and 7 youth.

Fellow Councillors

I must tell you that all these projects will not happen if we do not confront and deal with the culture of **community and business forums** who hijack and disrupt projects in our communities in the name of empowerment. In some cases people who stop service delivery projects do so without the mandate of the community.

We call upon community members to reclaim their wards and villages and fully participate in developmental projects. Where there are genuine issues, let us raise them through proper channels including making use of my office rather than disrupting projects, as such negatively affecting service delivery. Let us work together and grow South Africa.

Financial viability

Honourable Speaker

To this date, it is a common knowledge that our country is grappling with a budget deficit of R215 billion, or 4.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, said Minister of Finance Honourable Tito Mboweni during his maiden Budget Speech last month.

And the honourable minister stated that, as a country, we are expecting economic growth of 0.7 per cent in 2018, meaning that we are in a technical recession. It is expected that real GDP growth in 2019 will rise to 1.5 per cent and then strengthen moderately to 2.1 per cent in 2020 to 2021.

And here in Sekhukhune, we still remain a predominantly rural municipality depended on grants from the national fiscus. The total grants received for the financial year **2017-2018 was R1,358 780billion and R1,6billion for 2018-2019** financial year.

In 2015/16 when this Fourth Council took office, the current liquidity ratio was 0.84 as opposed to Treasury's scale of 1.5. I am very pleased to report that we have since reduced the liquidity ratio. From 0.81 in 2016/17 were we have moved to 0.72 in 2017/18 financial year. By December 2018 we were at 1.21 against 1.5 national treasury norm.

During the State of the District Address 2018, I have listed villages at which we carefully selected to enforce a culture of payment for services in order to **generate 'own revenue'** for sustenance. This vilages were choosen because we are supplying water around the clock there and the matter of revenue collection is an AG query. The villages in question are at Flag Boshielo West and they are Mbuzini, Morarela, Elandskraal and Dichoeung. And on the other site of town, Monstrolus Township and its surrounding villages have been earmarked.

And to date, administration has since done nothing regarding this key policy directive and I have since requested the Municipal Manager to enforce consequence management. I ordered that harsh steps must be taken against all officials involved in disregarding this directive.

This issue of generating own revenue is so critical that it pains my heart when administration is doing nothing about it. And I could sense that there is no preparedness on their part to increase our revenue base. When we said that we fight against the toxic mix, these are the things we are referring to.

Another thorny issue is with regard to the **implementation of turn-around strategy** in the district municipality. A shocking example to this effect pertains to forward planning, where a practical example is the recent appointment of contractors in January, with only five months left for implementation of this projects.

I have since ordered administration to present to me a **recovery or accellaration plans** that outlines ways and means of making these projects a success. And if this is not done, consequence management will apply before we encounter fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Furthermore, the issue of **matters of emphasise** by the AG keeps cropping up with no sign of action plan to deal with them. Examples are:

- The issue of material loses, and
- Supply of water to villages for 24 hours 7 days a week, however, no accounts, no billing, and no efforts are being made to recover costs.

The above are but just a few challenges we encounter in our journey to rebrand, repackage and remodel Sekhukhune District Municipality. However, like we have done before, we will not tolerate anybody found to be putting his/her hand in the cookie jar. That will not be tolerated at all.

We are a caring political office bearers who love our implementing agents (officials), care about them and supportive to them. But we will not tolerate acts of corruption, fraud and laziness. Never.

Audit outcomes

We are very pleased to report that when it comes to assessment by the Auditor General, our district municipality continue to excel. And to put cherry on top, we have also receive an award from SALGA on our achievement when it comes to unbroken record of 'unqualified audit opinions'.

For the year **2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016. 2016/2017, 2017/2018 – five years in a row** – we have retained the '**unqualified audit opinion**'.

And for the audit finding of 2017/2018, please allow me to request Municipal Manager, **Mme Norah Maseko** to stand up....honourable members, if it was not that this remarkable woman is not a financial guru, we would not have made it. We have

challenges of resignation of the CFO and the one acting resigned during AFS period.
. . But because of you we maintained our status....thank you Mme Maseko.

R5,4million fraud

Honourable Councillors

In the same breath, we would like to bring to speed the community of Sekhukhune progress on investigation around **fraudulent R5,4million** activity which took place in our municipality last year in July 2018. The forensic and legal investigation is almost completed and police cases have been opened while simultaneously a number of officials have been suspended over the matter.

We thank the community of Sekhukhune for their support by allowing us the time to investigate and reclaim the monies fraudulently stolen. Your interest in this case via social media, print and electronic media, public platforms, political pressure from opposition councillors and guidance of the ruling party, gave us strength to recover the money. We thank you so much.

On the very same matter, we have noted that there are voices whispering in the deep about details of how we recovered the money. And therefore, I am requesting that let us allow investigations on this matter to be fully concluded this June 2019. And then we will share the report with the public and all stakeholders involved.

Our commitment has always being that of fighting fraud and corruption tooth and nail. And we are here today reaffirming that stand point.

Local Municipalities

Honourable Councillors

We must however rededicate our collective effort towards combating and eradicating corruption in our municipalities and public service in general. The report by Advocate

Terry Modau titled “**The Greatest Bank Heist**” has shaken the municipal sphere in the entire country. I refer to the **VBS scandal**.

Here in Sekhukhune, two municipalities were greatly affected, namely: Ephraim Mogale and Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipalities. We welcome the national and provincial led interventions aimed at ensuring that consequence management is applied and where warranted criminal cases are opened and civil claims instituted.

And on that note, please allow me to congratulate **Ms. Naomi Phala (Nareadi) and Mr. David Molaodi Mothogwane** for being sworn in as Mayors of both Fetakgomo Tubatse and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities respectively. May you please rise. . .Your Worship Mayors, Sekhukhune welcomes you with open arms and we commit ourselves to support you in your new responsibilities. Thank you.

On that celebratory mood, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my revolutionary gratitudes because, we are elated by the fact that our district municipality together with its family of four local municipalities, are now proudly competing with the rest of local government society. On the 19th February 2019, I was proud to witness **SALGA Provincial Awards**.

Therefore, can the **Mayors of Makhuduthamaga, Ephraim Mogale and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipalities** please rise. Your Worship Mayor Cllr Maena Bahula, Your Worship Mayor Cllr Molaodi Mothogwane and Your Worship Mayor Cllr Julia Mathebe.

Distinguished Guests

governance structures

Speaker

Please allow me to report that since the inauguration of our Fourth Council in 2016, we have been able to sustain the effectiveness of our **council structures**. I am happy to announce that our audit committee, risk steering committee, all portfolio committees, standing committees, ie, MPAC, Ethics, Rules and Petitions, Programming, SDA Board are fully functional.

Equally functional, are our intergovernmental relations structures namely, Mayors Forum, Speakers Forum, Municipal Managers Forum, Chief Whips Forum and Technical Clusters.

And we are also pleased to announce that we are still accountable to our people and report to them on regular basis. We do this through Mayoral Outreaches, Stakeholder Engagements platforms, Speakers Outreaches, IDP/Budget Consultations, Annual Report public consultation, State of the District Address, to name but a few.

It is through the above-mentioned platforms that the leadership collective criss-cross the district municipality, listen to the the views of the people and respond accordingly. We are proud that we are able to touch base with the majority of our people as we grow South Africa together.

Sector Departments

Honourable Speaker

This government is made up of three spheres, namely, local, provincial and national spheres. And it is therefore befitting that as we report here today, we reflect on the performance of some of them while noting that these sector departments will outline more details during their **budget votes**.

Example of this is how we are performing dismally when it comes to the most important sector, **education**. Even after our forefathers have declared education as a bedrock from which a foundation of development is build, our performance as a district over the past three years is not convincing at all.

We have found ourselves as number last – mosela – each year when matric results are announced in the province. And there are no signs that we are improving. I therefore reiterate my statement that education is a societal matter and all of us must play our part.

During all our visits to schools, I have mandated all Councillors to adopt schools and work closely with School Management Teams, School Governing Bodies, teacher unions, Traditional Leaders, community organisations and NGOs to move our district forward.

We are very proud that the Honourable Premier has said during the State of the Province Address last month on the 22nd February 2019, that our province is doing more in the provisioning of basic services like health, education, water, sanitation, roads, electricity and jobs to our people.

We are very mucn pleased that to date, majority of our people are receiving free health care (including being on HIV and TB treatment, majority of our learners are benefiting from school nutrition system, more residents are getting water, majority of our house-holds in the districts are having electricity connections and that efforts are being consolidate to get more young people into workplaces.

From the speech by the Honourable Premier and evidence on the ground, we can see that Mahlatji's commitment of eradicating Bermuda roads has been realized. With the Ga-Malekana-Phasha-Mampuru-Tukakgomo road having been completed.

And on that note, we are witnessing more roads being constructed like the one at Riba Cross, R37 to Ga-Riba village, ka thabeng and the Jane Furse to Mphanama road to name but a few. We are calling upon our communities to exercise patience with us because more and more developmental projects are still on their way.

Traditional Leadership

Honourable Members

We continue to enjoy a healthy working relationship with all our Traditional Leaders. We continue to support them systematically during their ceremonies and bereavements. And we commit to continue to do so moving forward. We thank our Traditional Leaders for always being there for this Fourth Council.

On that note, we applaud the spirit that prevailed on the 4th March 2019 during a consultative meeting convened by the Honourable Minister of CoGTA Dr Zweli Mkhize and leaders of the National House of Traditional Leaders and other key representatives of Traditional Leaders.

We are deeply impressed that the meeting resolved on pertinent issues regarding legislations impacting on and affecting Traditional Leaders such as:

- Traditional Courts Bill;
- SPLUMA and the Communal Land Tenure Bill;
- Powers and roles of Traditional Leaders;
- Tools of Trade for Traditional Leaders;
- Khoisan Leadership Bill and the Customary Initiation Bills;
- Integrated Urban Development Framework; and

- Property rates Act.

Back home, we pride ourselves as a district municipality for having held countless consultative engagements with our Traditional Leaders ever since we took office in 2016. Among others, we were able to provide all our 75 Magoshi with laptops for effective management of their offices. And in addition, we were able to coordinate two progressive workshops to look into the issue of SPLUMA.

Madam Speaker

Still on matters of Traditional Leadership, we are also pleased that on the 20th February 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the National House of Traditional Leaders. And among key issues the President has raised are:

- Land Reform. Where the emphasis was that government need to intensify working relationship with Traditional Leaders, communities and other stakeholders to remove all obstacles hindering land reform.
- Mining in rural areas. The principle here is that Traditional Leaders are better placed to ensure that the new Mining Charter is effectively implemented in their respective areas. This is because mining industry need to contribute more directly to social and economic development of areas they mine.
- Poverty alleviation. “One of the most important mechanism to address rural poverty in the recent years has been the provision of social grants and we commend the Department of Social Development and their partners for continuing to provide this essential service to millions” said President Rampahosa among others.

All the above interventions added to countless engagements and programmes that all the three spheres of government are running, means that we value the support of our Magoshi in all what we do as government. And we thank you for that.

Special projects

Madam Speaker

Having gathered here today, we are confronted by prevailing societal challenges of **crime, sexual and substance abuse** in particular **Nyaope** among the youth. I call upon all Councillors, Traditional Leaders and communities to work together with role players such as the SAPS in fighting crime, sexual and substance abuse in our communities.

Nyaope has a got a potenatial of destroying our future, the young people of our district. I will be assembling a multi sectoral advisory panel on fighting Nyaope in our district.

Honourable councillor Maila I am sure as a retired police officer with experience, you will join us in this collective effort. I want an active community participaition in all our affected areas such as Jane-Furse, Ga-Masemola,Dennilton, Motetema, Praktiseer, Apel-Ga-Nkwana, to mention but a few.

Let us stand together and build our nation, let us defend and protect our children from the devil in the name of **Nyaope**.

Equally so, the alarming rate of cases of reported and unreported of **sexual abuse** in our communities is a major cause of concern. Like the President has said during both the January 8 Statement of the ANC and State of the National Address, we can not allow abuse of both women and children to go unchallenged.

In addition there is a new disturbing trend of violence in our schools often resulting in murders and serious injuries inflicted on children as young as 13 years. Equally disturbing is that the perpertrators are also very young. This has to stop AND it can

only stop if we as parents, as leaders, as political parties and indeed as a united community of Sekhukhune stand as one.

Working together with our Traditional Leaders and civil society groups, we must join the country-wide call to action against societal abuse in all the forms it manifest itself. United in one voice, we are saying that 'MEN WHO ABUSE WOMEN AND CHILDREN DO NOT REPRESENT US'.

On that note, I stand here before you saying that our district municipality has in the passed two years witness **cases of horrific crimes**, which do not represent us well. Whether reported or not reported, we are saying crime does not pay. And not in our names.

We all recall the widely reported case that happened on the 02nd April 2018, where six miners where petrol bombed on the road R37 in Driekop village, on their way to work at Modikwa Platinum Mine. Six people lost their lives...and May their souls rest in peace, while scores where injured.

This kind of incident, coupled with sporadic roads blockade by unknown people in our district, result in disruption of schooling, damage to property, destroys our road infrastructure, reduce of our economic rating in the province and tarnish our investment efforts.

I call upon all the people of Sekhukhune to understand that it is only through 'Dialogue' that service delivery concerns and our differences as a nation can be resolved. Collectively, today we are declaring violent service delivery protests 'criminal activities' and law enforcements agencies must clamp down on them.

Rebranding project

Fellow people of Sekhukhuneland

Please allow me to glance and zoom deeper into our report by using this quote:

“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”

close quote.

This are the words from the award winning, world renown Kenyan writer and academic, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, who is also an African scholar and a father of ‘decolonising the mind’. We refer to Ngungi wa Thiong’o’s wisdom because our task at hand needed it the most.

When we started in 2016, one of the critical areas that we pledged to deal with was to move this district municipality away from the shackles of the toxic mix. By then the district was characterised by roll-overs, under-spending, wasteful and fruitless expenditures, lack of operations and maintenance plans, laziness, rampant corruption, to name but a few.

And this collective took a decision to work tirelessly on rebranding, remodelling and repackaging Sekhukhune as a brand. And I am happy to report that we have indeed prioritised this area, engaged the relevant stake-holders and agreed that with the fourth council, it must be ‘business unusual’.

We are very proud that in the main like Ngungi wa Thiongo said, we have made remarkable progress in changing the mindset of the staff that works for the institution. And those who do not toe the line knows better that consequence management does apply.

Today in Sekhukhune, all of us share a common **vision** by this political leadership, which is that of – **being a leader in integrated economic development and sustainable service delivery**. Our **motto** is that - **Re a aga Siyakha** – and our **slogan** is – we are a **destination for economic growth and development**.

Growing SA together

Honourable Speaker

As we march to the year 2020-2021, we stand here and commit that working side by side with our communities and our social partners, we shall over come. That is why I wish to rest my case with the following:

'mphe serokolo ke kgeme,
ketla tshwelatshwela thoko mme
kase metše Kgadime.
aowi! hle nkadime Kgadime!
nkadime sagago sefepi
goba sona selepe
ke kgone go rema ka dika,
ke kgone le go rothiša ya bjoko meokgo
lenna ke tseparele bjalo ka Matsepe,
ke tsebe gore fegelwane le khutlo gase mathomomayo.

Ke sereto gotswa go Kgadime, ka sona re gopola kgaphampshikela gotswa gona fa seleteng sa Modimo le Badimo, Mohu OK Matsepe. Motho wa bo Leilane Leila Lethabo.

Honourable Speaker

As I conclude my address, please allow me to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, Members of the Mayoral Committee, for leading the executive business with distinction since 2016.

1. MMC Mbusi Mahlangu ka Mphezulu;
2. MMC Samson Nkosi – Phohungwana;
3. MMC Yvonne Makola – Mologadi;
4. MMC Tele Mnisi – Manyovho;
5. MMC Pinkie Nchabeleng – Mahlaku;
6. MMC Alfred Matlala – Hlabirwa;
7. MMC Lorraine Manganeng – Meta;
8. MMC Thembekile Sihlangu –

To you Honourable MMCs, I say “A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a moulder of consensus” quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

To members of the of the Political Management Team, Madam Speaker, Mme Maria Manamela – Mologadio – and the Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Tseke Lepota – Hlabirwa - it has always been a pleasure working with you in Council. “The ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people” quote from Woodrow Wilson.

To the leaders of the opposition political parties represented in Council, please listen to this “I have spent many years of my life in opposition, and I rather like the role” quote from Eleanor Roosevelt.

To Your Worship Mayors of our family of four Local Municipalities, Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders, the Municipal Manager, Mme Norah Maseko, the Senior Management Team, including our brand new CFO, Mpho Mofokeng. Thank you very much for your support.

To my wife, the First Lady of Sekhukhune District Municipality Mme Rosa Ramaila - and my family, I thank you for your undying support. "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage". You are my pillar of strength Mmago Setshaba.

To the business community, the mighty African National Congress, the communities of Sekhukhune, we are a tranquil and stable municipality because of you.

May we all go out there in our numbers and cast our constitutional right to vote on the 8th May 2019 national and provincial elections. The future of our country is in your hands and it depends on what you make use of it.

LET US GROW SOUTH AFRICA TOGETHER.

Kea Leboga! Baie Dankie!