



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019-2019 THE ANNUAL MAYORAL PERFORMANCE LEKGOTLA HELD AT FETAKGOMO TUBATSE MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS, GANKOANA VILLAGE, 09:00AM.

Mohlomphegi Mosepediši wa Lenanego la Lehono

Your Worship Mayors of our four Local Municipalities;

Bahlomphegi Maloko a Komiti ya Mmeyara-phethisi (MMCs);

Madam Speaker of our Council, Cllr Maria Manamela;

Mohlomphegi Sefepi Segolo sa Khansele Cllr. Tseke Lepota;

Our Municipal Manager of the District Municipality, Mme Norah Maseko;

Baloadi ba diMmasepala tsa Selegae mo gaSekhukhune;

Senior Management Teams and all Managers of our Municipalities;

Baemedi ba Dikgoro tsa Mmuso wa porobense ya Limpopo;

Employees of our Municipalities, the Support Staff;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning!

Thobela!

Mohlomphegi Mosepedisi wa Lenanego

Please allow me to hasten by indicating that, we have gathered here today in the mist of historic activities that have taken place and some are taking place as we speak. As such I will not speak about all of them, but please allow me single out just but a few.

One, we have gathered today after we have laid to rest one of the struggle icons in history, the recipient of the National Order of Luthuli in Silver, the 2012 receiver of Order of Gold for Bravery, a senior member of the Luthuli Detachment of the umKhonto we Sizwe, a soldier who fought during the 1967 Wankie Sipolilo against the South Rhodesian Army, to name but a few. I speak about non other than the late Lesiba 'Bra Ike' Maphoto.

Two, as if that is not enough, here within the borders of Sekhukhuneland, we have also laid to rest a struggle stalwart who participated in all the campaigns of the ANC in the 50s. He was also among the founding members of the Bapedi rural resistance movement which was formed at a meeting in Jeppe Hostel, Johannesburg, the 1958 Sebatakgomo Uprising. I speak about the late Mphahle Nkadimeng, who was laid to rest last weekend on the 3rd August 2019.

As we dip our revolutionary banners to salute the two fallen heroes of our liberation struggle, please allow me to request all of you to rise as we observe a moment of silence.....May their revolutionary souls rest in eternal peace.
Thank you all.

Mosepedisi wa Lenanego

On the other hand, please allow me to report that, we are pleased to announce that we have effected some changes in the Mayoral Committee as follows: MMC Yvonne Mmakola is now responsible for Budget and Treasury Department, Cllr. Orginia Mafefe in now MMC responsible for Special Groups portforlion in the Office of the Executive Mayor and MMC Sihlangu is now the Chair of Chairs.

Programme Director

It also gives me a great pleasure to report that Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa has been seconded to Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, while Cllr Molaodi Mothokgwane has been confirmed to lead Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality as Mayor. We wish all the newly deployed councillors well in their new responsibility and they can rely on our unwavering support.

Mosepedisi wa Modiro

I am also pleased that today's gathering follows the successful hosting of the International Nelson Mandela Day, by ourselves as we joined the peace loving people of the globe. Indeed, we applaud the various contributions made by different people from different sectors of our society.

And having said that, we have just entered one of the most critical era in our calendar, which is a time when we are all warned that 'wa thitha bafazi wa thitha mbokoto', you strike a woman you strike a rock. Women's month bears significant consciousness to all of us as we reflect on the role women played during the struggle, in our homes and in building this nation in particular.

Hence, we are making a clarion call that as we celebrate the 25 years of Freedom and Democracy, we will always be mindful of the immense contribution made by women of our country and therefore, embrace all the equal rights seeking to emancipate women as entrenched in our constitution.

We do all the above because in order for our Renewal, Unity and Jobs mandate to succeed, we need to intensely reflect on the trajectory we have traversed to this far and embrace the New Dawn as encapsulated by the Thuma Mina campaign. The business of this Sixth administration under President Ramaphosa need all of us to play our part with renewed zeal and dedication.

Programme Director

The 2018-2019 financial year was very difficult year for all of us as a nation. Its detrimental effects were also felt by all three spheres of government, the private sector and the ordinary people on the ground. In the main, we were hindered in our quest to deliver on the mandate of developmental local government by factors such as, the low economic growth, the high rate of unemployment and the growing gap of inequality.

This harsh economic factors that were characterized by raising prices of fuel, food and electricity, where exacerbated by our local factors that include but not limited to:

- The effects of the Great Heist (VBS Scandal);
- The R5,4million fraud case;
- Our inability to match the growing service delivery needs of our people;
- The sporadic service delivery protests; and
- The AG's audit opinion.

The above-mentioned factors, coupled with the political climate that prevailed in our country in the mist of transition into President Ramaphosa's Administration, as was well captured by the recall of former President Zuma and the intense election campaign that we saw, also contributed negative to our quest for economic growth.

We are however, programme director, confident that as we deal with the effects of scandals like the VBS and the R5,4million fraud, the mammoth task of this government to continue improving the quality of lives of our people still continue unhindered. We say this because as this current generation, we have always believed that our people should judge us through our actions, hereto refered as 'deliverables' rather than anything else.

Hence, our call to mobilize everybody across the spectrum to our mission which is "Lets Grow South Africa Together".

Programme Director

I said that the financial year 2018-2019 was not easy for anyone of us. And therefore, it is very critical to note that internally all our councils are concluding three (3) years in office flowing from the 2016 August local government elections. And therefore, if we have to be honest about our deliverables for the past three years, it is very critical to assess ourselves using the relevant political tools of analysis.

Among others, the reports and the deliberations that we are going to have today, should respond to the Mayoral Priorities that we have set for ourselves as we assumed office in 2016. And that will be guided by how administration have fared in assisting us as elected leaders of our municipalities.

During our numerous engagements with your good selves, whether EXCO meetings, strategic sessions, Mayoral Imbizos and Stakeholder engagements, we have always outlined our visions. Coupled with that, we have always assured you of our support so that you can implement our policies knowing that you have us on your side.

We have traversed this trajectory together. And we have told you that you have the power to fail us or make us succeed. Simply put, we confined in you and said that the future of our policy directives is in your hands and it depended on what you make use of it.

Now is the time to listen to you as you report on how far you have fared. With those words, I welcome each and everyone of you, for having honoured this invitation. I wish you a robust, honest and successful Annual Mayoral Performance Lokgotla.

I Thank You!

Kea Leboga!