



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality

Private Bag X8611  
Groblersdal  
0470  
3 West Street  
Groblersdal 0470  
Tel: (013) 262 7300  
Fax: (013) 262 3688

E-Mail: [sekinfo@sekhukhune.co.za](mailto:sekinfo@sekhukhune.co.za)

**CLOSING REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA ON THE OCCASION OF CLOSING THE 2019 STRATEGIC SESSION HELD AT THE RANCH HOTEL ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019, 12:00 PM**

**Mosepedisi wa Modiro**

Members of the Mayoral Committee present here this morning;

Speaker of Council and the Chief Whip in absentia;

Chairpersons of our Section 79 Committees;

All our Councillors present here today;

The Municipal Manager of our District Municipality, Mme Norah Maseko;

Members of the Board of the Sekhukhune Development Agency SDA;

Municipal Managers from our family of 4 Local Municipalities;

All Senior Managers and Managers of our District Municipality;

Representatives of Sector Departments;

Support Staff, the employees of our district municipality;

Facilitators of this two-day session;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Good Morning!**

**Thobela!**

## **Programme Director**

Let me congratulate each and everyone of you who spared no effort in contributing to shaping the strategic path of our district; I have seen some of you working through mid-night with great enthusiasm in different vanues within The Ranch Polokwane Precincts. You executed your commissions work and tasks with great distinction.

As we recap the session this afternoon, I wish to shed a little bit of perspective on how the work we embarked on in these two days connects to the bigger picture. This strategic session is taking place following one of the most exciting and progressive State of the Nation Address as delivered by our Commander in Chief, State President Cyril Ramaphosa, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Which will be followed by the much anticipated State of the Province Address later this month and State of the District Address to follow. During the State of the District Address I will be unveiling, in my pronouncement, some of the issues firmed up by your deliberations and the shed light on the strategic direction of the district. I will also pull linkages between the national and provincial pronouncements as well as policy proposals as we work together to grow South Africa.

You have reflected in the past two days on the tone and the spirit of SONA. We have done so in our commissions. The district's role in localising and contextualusing the institutionalisation of a competitive local economy in light of opportunities linked to economic stimulus packages and Special Economic Zones.

Your deliberations will go long way into reaffirm our district's commitment to the call of Thuma Mina which should be reflected by our desire to be there when the community need us to serve – with Honesty, Excellence, equal Access, Respect and Transparency. This is what you meticulously packaged as HEART values and you are the heartbeat of the institution.

## **Programme Director**

The engagements of the these two days are very imperative and we live up to the aims and the objectives of this strategic planning session, which we said, is a platform to self-introspect using the tools of analysis as captured as SWOT. We learnt our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. I am convinced that you have succeeded in analysing the narrative our people have in order to give concrete expression on how we have fared thus far and where we need to take our district forward.

I am excited that you have all participated in the exercise of crafting the 'Vision', 'Mission' and 'Values' that resonate with the vision of this current leadership as elected in August 2016 local government elections. And this leadership collective hereby declare to give an unsummountable support to the administration in pursuit of this vision.

In both the ANC Manifesto launch in Durban and the State of the Nation Address in Cape Town, President Ramaphosa called upon all of us to work together and grow South Africa. And we are saying that we will comply.

## **Programme Director**

Working through different commissions we were advantaged as leadership to be part of discussions that will set our district on a path to greatness. I am certain that you have carried the mandate given to you to focus on rebranding Sekhukhune with passion and the programme is well oiled.

We have jointly agreed to reflect on our status quo from the past, because we have said when we started that 'the past and the present are inter connected. And there we agreed that as we forge ahead with our future, this current generation needs to

grapple with the persistent reality of the past and ask difficult questions and learn from them.

### **Programme Director**

I am deeply happy that the following issues among others have been sharply raised during this important session. They are:

- Stake-holder engagement. This will help us to reshape our approach when it comes to stake-holder relations and enable us to improve;
- Accessibility. That while the Municipal Manager and the Executive Mayor are accessible, our Senior Managers are still unaccessible. Meaning that monthly departmental meetings are not held thus resulting in a gap between management and workers, who are our implementing agents;
- Down pullers, on a more negative note, this session has opened our eyes and ears to the reality that both Infrastructure and Water Services and Finance departments, which are central to service delivery are our down pullers. And this must stop now;
- That non-response to matters of emphasize from the AG hinders our way to clean audit opinion. And this must also stop now;
- Under-spending on grants like WSIG resulting in roll-overs need to be stopped now and categorized as a punishable offence if it persists;
- That we have regressed in terms of performance, with the serious impact being felt on our financial viability, deficit figure, price fixing between service providers and officials, which in its character is a criminal offence called collusion, is back to haunt us after sometime of its disappearance;
- The issue of generating own revenue was clearly explored during this strategic session and it remains critical and I got assurances that something will be done about it.
- And that travel claims, overtimes, price fixing, are among the line items that will lead us into economic doom.

Having said that, one can only envelop his imagination with hope emanating from the reason that this type of engagements are necessary to resolve this kind of

challenges. And therefore, I am deeply impressed by the tactical approach which you have adopted to deal with the above challenges.

### **Programme Director**

I am happy that honest, bold and robust presentation on the **implementation of turn-around strategy** was made and it will translate into better forward planning and meeting our strategic obligations.

From today, I hope that everybody has clearly understood the difference between interference and intervention. This means that MMCs will from henceforth take their responsibility serious, call divisional meetings, demand monthly reports and assist us to recognise patriotic workforce who needed to be encouraged.

Once again, we encourage management to manage and boost morale of employees who must work and earn their living. I am calling for a happy workforce and anyone who is found to defy this directive will not be spared. Simply put that, I am making a CLARION CALL to everybody to go **BACK TO BASICS**. And with that approach, we shall overcome.

From here, I wish that the executive will be presented with a final report of this strategic planning session, so that **MAYORAL MAKGOTLA** is able to assess progress made moving forward.

### **Programme Director**

Like I said yesterday, 2019 is the year of General Elections and we expect all of you to go and exercise your democratic right by casting your vote. I hope you will be exemplary by visiting IEC offices to verify your voting details because this is a critical moment.

## **Programme Director**

As I conclude, please allow me to thank you all for your indelible efforts to make this Strategic Planning session a remarkable success it is. As you will be driving to the office, go out there galantly because you carry on your shoulders the sustenance of our district to the bigger and brighter future that our people anticipate and seek from our daily actions and efforts.

And I leave you with the following words and I 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 Ngugi wa Thiong’o, an African scholar and a father of ‘decolonising the mind’. May your minds be liberated.

**We are Sekhukhuneland!**

**Re a aga! Siyakha!**

**I THANK YOU!**