

2015/2016 STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS OF THE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR CLLR LERATO MALOKA

Thank you very much the programme Director for this opportunity afforded to me.

Frankly, it is common knowledge that I stand here as I do, before this great audience this morning, by virtue of the nodding of the head of the honourable Speaker of the Lesedi Local Municipality Council, Cllr Simon Moremi.

At the very same time as protocol dictates, may I also acknowledge the presence of and by hospitable salutation to:

The honourable MEC for

The Honourable Executive Mayor(s) of District Municipality, Cllr Simon Mofokeng

The honourable speaker(s) from the

Members of both the National & Provincial Legislatures

The Chief Whip of the African National Congress in our municipality, Cllr
Enerst Dlamini

The chief whip(s) of councils from the

Members of the Mayoral Committee(s) from the

Respected fellow councillors

The Regional Leadership of African National Congress, and the regional
secretary Cde Bheki Ngobese, Alliance Partners and Opposition Parties

Members and Representatives of the labour unions

Members from all Teaching and Learning Institutions

Municipal Managers, HOD's and Officials

Sector Departments

Members from the Business Fraternity

Religious and Spiritual Leaders

Youth Formations

Media Houses present today

Ladies and gentlemen

Distinguished guests

Friends and fellow compatriots

Mr Speaker, it would indeed be a grave mistake not to acknowledge this Community, **whose presence this morning warms our hearts knowing that all our guests are hospitably welcomed in their midst.** Ke Lesedi La Rona Leo.

My fellow friends and compatriots, **never lose sight of the fact that this is the community we work to serve, both night and day.**

The State of the Municipality Address we are presenting today Mr Speaker, **is our resolve as the governing party to inspire hope in our communities and to instil faith in their own democratic and people-centred local government.**

This off course will be presented in a manner that is easy to understand with much greater emphasis.

Mr Speaker before I go into the business of the day, grant me the opportunity to congratulate all South Africans. As we celebrate 60 years of a historic moment in our country when South Africans from all walks-of-life adopted the Freedom Charter in 1955 in Kliptown, Soweto.

As stated by His Excellency Our President Jacob Zuma in State of the Nation Address on the 12th February 2015, also emphasised that 2015 is not only the year of Freedom Charter alone. But the year for unity in action to Advance Economic Freedom.

We celebrated Africa Day on May 25th, reminding us that as South Africans we are first all Africans.

The attacks on our African brothers and sisters did not sit well with us, in this part of the country. Hence, we did not experience similar incidences of Xenophobic violence.

We proudly say **No to Xenophobia**, as demonstrated during the past months.

During the Africa Day Celebration held in Tshwane two months ago, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma encouraged us to know the African Union Anthem to demonstrate solidarity and to promote Africanism.

It is against this background that during our maiden HAMFEST (Heidelberg Arts and Music Festival) that foreign nationals were also invited to participate as a way to demonstrating Nation Building.

Mr Speaker, the date for the State of The Municipal Address is specifically chosen to be during the month of June to always ensure that we reaffirm the relevance of the role played by the class of 1976 with the municipal programmes and plans.

Historically the Month of June commemorates the

- 11 June 1955, The African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC) decide to proclaim a "National Day of Mourning", on 26 June, with a countrywide stay-at-home strike. They favour a stay-at-home strike and prayer because of the shootings on 1 May 1955.

- During the Press Conference held at the City Hall of Cape town, on leaving the office as South African President on June 15 1999, the late Dr Nelson Mandela said:

Open Quote

“South Africans must recall the terrible past so that we can deal with it, forging where forgiveness is necessary but never forget” Close Quote

- The June 16 1976 Uprising that began in Soweto and spread countrywide profoundly changed the socio-political landscape in South Africa. The rise of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) and the formation of South African Students Organisation (SASO) raised the political consciousness of many students while others joined the wave of anti-Apartheid sentiment within the student community.
- 26 June 1950, The Suppression of Communism Act, No. 44 of 1950, according to which, the South African Communist Party declared illegal is approved in parliament. It came into force on 17 July 1950.

Mr Speaker, as we move South Africa forward, we take into account our previous disadvantages, but I wish us not to dwell in the past. Instead to work hard together in achieving the dreams we want to see in our lifetime. **“Be the change you want to see” as Mahatma Gandhi once wrote.**

For the past 20 years of democracy and 15 years of new local government dispensation, Honourable Councillors, our people have declared their trust in the National, Provincial and local governments of the ANC, and since then they have pinned their unwavering hope and faith in us.

And, I can declare with confidence that we have done our level best not to disappoint them. Although we believe that we are not yet on the pinnacle of our political goal.

I can also declare with confidence that South Africa today is much better that it was before 1994.

In presenting this State of the Municipality Address, Honourable Speaker, let me point out that this address is within the context of the African National Congress's January 8 statement that sets tone for the policy direction to be taken in the same year of action.

It follows that this address is primarily expected to take linear cue from the State of the Nation Address as delivered by the State President Jacob Zuma in February this year,

The State of the Province Address as delivered by the Premier of the Gauteng Province, David Makhura

And it is furthermore informed by the National Development Plan, which is the government's master plan of fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality,

It is also given shape by the Back to Basics Strategy that demands of us to be a responsive, caring and accountable local government and serve our communities better.

Mr Speaker, at this point it should be borne in mind that the National Development Plan is regarded as a roadmap for tackling the problems of poverty, inequality and unemployment, as the president echoed

Open quotes "It is a roadmap to a South Africa where all will have water, electricity, sanitation, jobs, housing, public transport, adequate nutrition, education, social protection, quality healthcare, recreation and a clean environment." Close quotes.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, this State of the Municipality Address **is a face if not an implementation tool of our Integrated Development Plans** among the many platforms we can use as a municipality to communicate our vision to all the affected stakeholders.

And it is premised on our key priorities, which are: Service Delivery, Local Economic Development, Job creation and Tourism, Social Development, Good Governance and Public Participation as well as Sound Financial Management.

Exactly four years ago in my maiden State of the Municipal Address, I had shared a vision to raising the bar through performance and some of what the vision entailed can be summarized as the following.

There were specific plans to reforming our Local Economic Development, so that it yielded more benefits to our local smme's and at the same time it attracted investments to our municipal periphery.

Therefore, ensured that our Small Medium Enterprises benefited as the 30% value of all our municipal funded projects is shed off to the locals.

The second aspect of the vision, focused on transforming Sports. With a specific objective to committing and increasing the municipal sports facilities to our sportsmen and women so that at the end there is improvement on the quality of life of our communities.

The third aspect related to accelerating service delivery to our communities with emphasis made to challenging our municipal officials to becoming more and more efficient and effective in their employment and the speed with which such services were being delivery was of great importance.

Therefore, **the manner in which how services were being delivered mattered the most.** It was no longer a matter of just service delivery but it was to be excellent services for that matter.

In this regard, **our officials without exceptions needed not to get a reason or justification why they should go an extra mile in the call of duty serving our communities.** It is imbedded in the Batho Pele principles for all the spheres of government.

The fourth aspect of the vision dealt with institutional transformation and growth. As it is common knowledge that **improved service delivery requires as much organizational re-alignment as possible to be able to achieve the intended results.**

Therefore, the recasting of our performance measurement and management system and the municipal structure was inevitable.

Through these initiatives at least we hope that **our officials are urged not only to delivering optimal services to our communities, But to deliver excellent services.**

This aspect further signaled the role of the office of the Executive Mayor **to actively interface with our complaints management system. So as to know exactly what problems there are, who is dealing with such and for how long such have been receiving attention by the municipality?**

In the same vein, as a municipal council, we also have to know what communities say about our services in the form of a satisfaction index.

In the light of the above mentioned, it was further important that we knew exactly long it took to generally respond to the complaints of our communities.

To this end, the question may still be asked, if I still believe that this municipality is on the right track to realizing the same vision four years later?

Yes indeed, the point of the above-mentioned account of what I had shared 4 years ago, is very much relevant to this year's plan of action.

Firstly, it shows advantages of a wall to wall planning for different activities by government.

Second and lastly, it is meant to demonstrate how purposeful this municipal council is even if it is the final year of our term of office.

The Speaker of Council, ladies and gentlemen and our distinguished guests,

It was exactly 3 years ago, during the state of the municipal address at which I presided over a sitting of a chattered dream and disheartened community that witnessed its permanent part being destroyed to ashes.

Unavoidably, it was the moment of two contrasting leadership to emerge with opposing ideals. Our communities were at the cross roads. The one set of leadership believed that Lesedi was better if it was destroyed to ashes.

Unwittingly at that time, our natural leadership make-up was put to the ultimate test. A firm leadership was needed to help our communities to recover, to give them hope that tomorrow will be much better and this found homage in that address wherein I said the following.

Open quotes **“Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. We can never be triumphalist just because the sun is shining on our doorsteps. Neither should we become defeatist just because the weather is too bad today.”** Close quotes.

The emphasis of the abovementioned statement is clearly to show the resolve of the ANC in a leadership not put through violence means in wanting to make their point across.

We further demonstrated to all the sectors of our society that there is no amount of violence that would be enough and justified.

Hence, I concur with Tata Mandela in saying

Open quotes

“South Africans must recall the terrible past so that we can deal with it, forging where forgiveness is necessary but we should never forget” Close Quote

Mr Speaker, is it not that history is for such purposes?

In his State of the Province Address in 2015, the Premier David Makhura, put emphasis on two aspects, if we are to be serious about bringing a meaningful change to our society.

Those aspects are namely; radical economic change and decisive spatial transformation.

With these aspects come the much needed help to addressing not only the structural problems of the provincial and national economy, but also of the local economy.

As we look to the past year and take stock of our service delivery achievements.

We can indeed assure our communities, that much progress has been made in improving their living conditions through delivery of basic services.

These are not necessarily limited to water and sanitation provision, waste removal and management, infrastructure development, job creation, improvement of the local economy, and poverty alleviation programmes.

Despite our limited resources, it needs to be mentioned that our efforts to respond to a variety of needs of our communities are clear and evident to the eyes of the beholder.

Honorable Speaker, even to those, who are in denial and who finds it hard to accept that the ANC government is in charge, **can attest to the fact that our deliverables are tangible and bear testimonies for themselves.**

The 2014/2015 financial year is yet another challenging and eventful year for the Lesedi Local Municipality because our challenges have increased and our shortcoming decreased.

At the beginning of the year, we set service delivery targets for ourselves and this address presents an opportunity for us to report back on our promises.

In reporting back, we will also admit our shortcomings and while at the same time setting out intervention mechanisms to address those shortcomings.

We however **cannot be ignorant of the fact that in every noble effort of bringing good, there are always accompanying challenges and hurdles that we have to overcome.**

The achievements we intend to elaborate on have been through a collective effort from the speaker, all councilors, the Chief Whip, the Mayoral Committee, Management and Staff of Lesedi Local Municipality.

As we all know that local government is a collective sport. These we could not have successfully managed without the support of national and provincial governments, business, NGOs, communities and various stakeholders.

Honorable Speaker, succinctly it is with great joy that we are able to present Our Achievements and Planned projects for 2015/2016

The economic outlook of the country remains under pressure especially with the recent fall of the rand against major currencies and as such our local economic outlook is similarly affected with domestic spending expected to remain under pressure.

Despite these adverse socio-economic factors, the municipality remains financially viable with an average collection of 88% year to date.

However, we still encourage our communities to pay for municipal services consumed in order to ensure that the municipality can maintain and improve on the current service delivery levels.

Our budget for the 2015/2016 financial year is as follows:

Our revenue is to increase by 10% to a whopping R598million due to our planned tariff increases by both Eskom and Rand water.

Our operational expenditure to increase by 7% to a whopping R581million in line with the current inflation.

Meanwhile our capital expenditure to decrease by 16% to a total of R53million due to the unfavorable grant funding in this regard.

In the same vein, it is worth mentioning that for the first time in the history our municipality our registered indigents have surpassed the 4000 mark. We also expect this number to increase as part of our objective to ensuring that all our indigents in within our municipality do receive free basic services.

With regards to the Local Economic Development and Planning

Local Economic Development and planning is the lifeblood of this municipality as it allows for development enrichment of the municipality through its mandate to bring economic opportunities and growth to the municipal periphery.

Mr Speaker, as a municipality we have taken the plight of high unemployment level very seriously, in such a manner that our collective efforts partnered with the other spheres of government as well as the private sector have resulted in a total of 4375 jobs being created during this term of office.

It is the mirror and window through which the world see this municipality for its capacity to plan in past, as well as for the future.

- As a way of subscribing to the radical economic change and decisive spatial transformation agenda, the LLM has partnered with a private investor to implement a multi-layered project that will yield a projected investment of approximately R4.6 billion spanning the whole area including Devon and Vischkuil.

- This investment will bring the much needed development in our municipal periphery resulting in the construction of various facilities, some of which can be listed as the following and their respective slides showing the artistic impressions, side plans and the actual building structure will beamed as I present them:
 - The warehousing port in Heidelberg along the N3 corridor
 - The Rehabilitation of the landfill site in Ratanda next to Obed Nkosi to develop a filling station and mixed land use development
 - Student housing complex in Heidelberg next to the Sedibeng College
 - The Warehouse park in Heidelberg ext 24 in the industrial area
 - Office park next to the municipal offices and library in Heidelberg
 - The turning of the old Heidelberg Jail into the lifestyle café
 - The upgrading of the AG Visser House into the business information centre and tourism promotion
 - Extreme Park and Service centre in Vischkuil
 - Shopping centre and incubation park for the Smmes in Devon

- The Lesedi Local Municipality in partnership with Transnet undertook a multi-year construction project of a bulk petroleum storage facility and National multi-pipeline running from the KZN coastline to our very own Jameson Park and 1860 jobs are accounted for.
- As their resultant Community Social Investment programme, Transnet will building a world class skill centre to nurture requisite skills particularly through the youth.
- Through a Private Public Partnership (PPP) this municipality together with Vopak/Reatile intend to build a bulk petroleum storage facility in Jameson Park. A result of which will see quite a reasonable number of decent job opportunities being created. Discussions in this regard are at a very advanced stage and the project will commence in not too a distant future, Mr Speaker it my guarantee.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, and distinguished guests, a few months ago as a willing party, a delegation consisting of myself and the municipal manager joined the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality delegation on a trip to China for a conference for the Airport Cities of the globe. The purpose of the conference was to share experiences since airports were the common feature of the attending cities in the main. Of note is the fact that this trip will be followed soon by alignment and inclusion of the Heidelberg Aerodrome in the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis master plan, with the projected investment of approximately R1 billion.

- We have made land available to Gauteng Province Department of Roads and Transport to develop and construct a Vehicle Testing and licensing centre in Ratanda, thus bringing services closer to the community.
- For many years in the recent past, mention of the Zone of Opportunity had been made on countless occasions and largely meetings wherein the Heidelberg Mall was flagged as the draw card of investment into the municipality. Finally, in October 2014, I had a privilege to open the Heidelberg Mall to the shopping public. In this regard, more than 799 permanent jobs were created.
- Mr Speaker, it also our privilege to take this opportunity to clarify what Hamfest entails. This event is envisaged to be held on an annual basis and it emanates from our Local Economic Development Strategy. The Hamfest was launched for the first in May 2015. Admittedly, this event is still in its inception stage although it was generally not a success we had hoped for but it provided enough information on which wiser decisions can be made on how to turn it into a success in the following years. It showcased the appetite for enterprise development and made an impetus to market tourism in the area.

On Human Settlements

Together with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, a Zone of Integration concept was successfully piloted at Obed Nkosi. This is a Mixed Land Use development. The project will in total build 6000 units. Today, we are very happy to announce that a total of 1258 houses are completed and beneficiaries thereof have started to take occupation.

- A total of 238 houses will be built during the 2015/16 financial year to accommodate the same number of families who will be relocated from the Ratanda informal settlement. This relocation follows the much talked about celebration of the eradication of the bucket system a month ago.
- It is worth mentioning that all Informal settlements are supplied with water standpipes within 200m radius and 98% of formalised settlements are receiving stand piped water.
- We are planning to develop 2500 housing units at Kwazenzele phase 2, 3 during the 2015/16 financial year and 3400 housing units in Impumelelo Ext. 3 & 4 during the 2016/17 financial year.
- At the very moment, may I also state that the construction of the Community Residential Units in Ratanda and Shalimar Ridge has been completed meanwhile electricity is still to be supplied. And we are expecting beneficiaries to take occupation by the end of 2015.

On Infrastructural Development

- 96% of all formalized settlements receive water and sanitation.
- The informal settlements utilise VIP toilets as a temporary measure, the plan is to reticulate formalised settlements and relocate households from informal settlements.
- 4km of new roads and storm water will be completed by end of June 2015.
- With the current energy crisis faced by our country, our municipality also has a contribution to make in reducing the burden carried by the national grid in generating energy for use by our citizens. Therefore, in our small contribution to this effect, LED street lighting bulbs have been fitted in some parts of the Heidelberg CBD and Industrial areas.

With Regards to Community Services

- Mr Speaker, we are happy to also announce that we have established a Partnership with Hollard Trust to improve the standards at informal ECD's by providing training to the Educators as well as to develop minimum Norms and Standards. An ECD Strategy has been approved and a relevant audit was conducted on all ECD centres.

- In our endeavour to beautifying our areas, an amount of R6m is currently been spent on our parks in Ratanda.
- We have upgraded various Sports facilities in Impumelelo, Vischkuil and Jameson Park in line with our intention to improving the quality of life of our communities such as the development of the combination courts.

In shaping the outlook of our interface between IT and our human resources. We have planned to implement the following projects during the 2015/16 financial year.

- Our organisational structure has been duly re-engineered with a view to become more effective and efficient in responding to service delivery challenges. The aim is to fully implement the Performance Management System to all employee level.
- We are currently implementing a comprehensive fleet management system which was upgraded in 2015 to meet the needs of the municipality. Furthermore, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has donated about 32 vehicles to be used for service delivery initiatives.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker of Council of what value will this state of the municipal address be, if we are unable to share our vision with our communities?

How good would it be, if we do not show our good intentions to put our communities first?

Of what use would it be, if we cannot reconnect with all our communities in one roof to share our dreams? I also want to take this opportunity to thank my family, my parents and my in - laws for the unconditional support, guidance and love I receive from them.

I also want to thank the guidance and the entrusted believe by the ruling party ANC, for trusting me with the leadership of this Municipality.

Distinguished guests, I have in the past chosen not to be a leader consumed by her interests. Instead, I have chosen to be a leader about the interests of her people.

Mr Speaker, the account of our achievements and plans that I have just given, it is not a list full of fallacies. But a true reflection of a municipality hard at work justifying the meaning to a municipal council and indeed amplify the notion that local government is a government closest to the people.

With these efforts and plans we are further giving meaning to exactly what municipalities are about. Serving the people. Lesedi is exactly about that too. Moving closer to our communities.

I thank you very much once more!!!