

# **STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS BY LESEDI EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR LERATO MALOKA – 12 JUNE 2014 AT HEIDELBERG TOWN HALL**

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Thank you Programme Director, Mr Jabu Marwa

Executive Mayors of Sedibeng District, Ekurhuleni District  
and Emfuleni Local municipalities

Speakers present

MMCs present

Councillors

Leadership of the African National Congress and the  
Alliance partners

Leaders of Civil Society formations and the Business  
Community

Municipal Managers from our Municipalities in the District  
and members of the Senior Management Team

Members of the Media

Comrades, Family and Friends

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity to join all our people in extending our heartfelt condolences to the Mbeki family on the passing of MaMbeki as she was commonly known. MaMbeki was an activist in her own right and she continued lending a helping hand in her community past her retirement age. May the soul of this heroine of our people rest in eternal peace.

I am privileged to stand before you at this august occasion to share with all of you the state of our municipality given the work we have done in this financial year of 2013/2014.

In this address I will also share with you the plans that we have for the 2014/2015 financial year that will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

This address takes place as we have just emerged from peaceful National and Provincial elections that were held on May 7. Our country once more demonstrated that our democracy continues to mature. These elections were declared as being free and fair by the African Union Observer Mission which was headed by the former President of Ghana, Mr John Kufour.

In declaring the results he said "South Africa has set the bar so high and my advice to other countries would be to try and emulate South Africa. The countries should respect their own constitutions and accountability to the electorate and I believe this will make Africa progress peacefully,"

We should be very proud of ourselves as South Africans for this achievement and we need to build on it in pursuing all matters of national importance.

Over 11 million of our people have once again demonstrated their confidence in the mighty African National Congress as the party to improve their lives and move our country forward.

This they did consciously as they refused to be misled by those who choose not to acknowledge that it is only our glorious ANC that is capable and willing to improve our lives.

In the same breath I wish to take this opportunity and congratulate our new political leadership nationally and in all provinces under the leadership of President Zuma as we together with them continue on the journey to move South Africa forward.

As the sphere of government closest to the people we remain the centre where our government's efficiency is tested at all times. This often leads to local government being the centre of protests even on services that are not our competency but we fully understand the need to take responsibility as a caring government.

We remain committed to ensuring that we improve on intergovernmental relations with departments in other spheres with the understanding that our common objective is that of improving the lives of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a historic year as we are celebrating twenty years of freedom and democracy as a nation.

It is very important for us to always appreciate the fact that this freedom we are celebrating was not given to us on a silver platter.

Some of our heroes and heroines laid down their lives for us to walk tall and feel proud to be South Africans. As we look back and reflect on our achievements, let us spare a thought for them.

As residents of Lesedi, we also celebrate this milestone with confidence because we know that even our area is a better place compared to what it was before 1994.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to share our achievements as an ANC led municipality since 1994.

## **With regards to Human Settlement**

- The Government has delivered over 9 000 houses in Lesedi and we are on course to deliver even more for our people.
- All formal houses and informal houses on formalised stands have access to basic services such as water, electricity and proper sanitation.
- The unemployment rate was approximately at 45% and the introduction of Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) by the ANC led Government, brought significant changes within our municipal space and now the unemployment rate is at about 25%.
- The adoption of pieces of legislation such as Local Government Transition Act and White Paper for Local Government resulted in the formulation of important planning tool in the form of Integrated Development Planning (IDP).

- One of the greatest achievements in implementing the IDP is the element of public participation. For the first time the local citizens were provided with the opportunity to be involved in addressing the challenges of their own areas, and together with government deciding on actions that need to be taken to confront the socio-economic inequalities brought about by the policies of apartheid.

## **ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Access to running water has improved to 92, 1% of the households.
- The rest of the community, mainly situated at informal settlements, have access to water within a radius of 200m.
- Non-revenue water (water losses) in the province has increased from 21.8% in 2005 to 35.9% in 2010. In Lesedi it increased over the same period from 14.9% to 17% due to distribution losses as a result of riots and ageing infrastructure.

- I will later share on our interventions to mitigate these losses.
- The percentage of households with hygienic toilets increased from 67.2% in 1996 to 89.1% to date.
- Households with a flush toilet has increased from 70, 5% in 2001 to 89.1% in 2011. Equating to approximately 12 545 additional households.
- The current sanitation backlog amounts to approximately 58 households (bucket system). I will later outline our plans to address sanitation challenges in all our areas.
- Households connected to electricity are currently at 76.6%, an improvement from 53.8% compared to 1996.
- Refuse removal has improved from 62.8% of households in 2001 to above 83.2%.

- Access to health services has also improved from three clinics to eight fully fledged clinics.

Through investments and implementation of various infrastructure projects. We have created jobs for our people while improving lives. In the past five years alone more than 3000 job opportunities were created in various projects.

No one shall dare challenge us when we say in Lesedi we have a good story to tell and proudly celebrate these gains of our freedom and democracy.

As much as we celebrate these achievements our government continues to acknowledge that there is still more work to be done.

These achievements in the past 20 years bring hope to all of us that indeed moving forward the ANC led government will achieve much more.

As we enter the third year of our political term that started in 2011, we are here today to give feedback and progress in implementing our 2011 local government manifesto.

This manifesto was a contract with our people that working together with them we can build better communities.

In our last strategic session we adopted new strategic objectives to guide our performance and service delivery, and among others they include:

- Improving our organizational capacity, knowledge and transformation.
- Promoting a good organisation culture and image
- Improving performance and efficiency levels
- Reducing water and electricity distribution losses
- Increasing access to municipal service
- Improving economic viability
- Increasing earnings potential of Lesedi citizens

- Promoting public participation and Good Meaningful Governance
- Improving compliance and building stakeholders confidence
- Improving Municipal Planning and spatial development
- Lastly, improving community health and safety

Honourable Speaker and distinguished guests, I am here today before you at this august occasion to account for the work we have done in 2013/14 and our plans for the 2014/15 financial year.

Despite our challenges and setbacks we are indeed on course in building better communities and a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

### **State Of Municipal Finances**

Our financial status has been on a positive increase in this financial year compared to the 2012/13 financial

year as a result of interventions after the unfortunate violent protests in 2012.

We are currently implementing the credit control policy and recovering all debt owed to the municipality. We continue to call on all our residents who are indigents to come forward so that they can be registered in our database. We should all take responsibility and pay for services that we consume.

We are in the process of implementing a data cleansing project that is aimed at ensuring that we reduce our revenue losses.

Field workers will visit all households and businesses for physical verifications and we appeal to all residents to cooperate with them. We are confident that upon completion of this process our revenue collection will increase.

## **With Regards to Infrastructural Services**

## **Namely Electricity – 2013/14**

- We experienced unfortunate acts of theft and vandalism to our electrical equipments like transformers and substations. This had a negative impact on our finances because repairing and replacing this equipment is very costly.
- Our communities were inconvenienced and subjected to power outages for days. We have put security measures in place to protect these assets and we are still appealing to all our residents to provide information to help bring those responsible to book.
- We intended to upgrade bulk electricity network at Obed Nkosi to an amount of R6 million and this project is about to be completed in this month of June 2014.

## **For the 2014/15**

- We are going to electrify 958 houses in Obed Nkosi at a cost of R7 million.

## **Roads – 2013/14**

- We are busy with the construction of Roads and Stormwater in Heidelberg Extensions 23 & 26, the project will cost R26 million. This project is currently at 95% and about to be completed and 107 job opportunities were created.
- We are completing a project of resealing of roads at a cost of R4, 5 million and 20 people were employed.

## **For the 2014/15**

- We will be constructing roads and stormwater in Kwazenzele at a cost R4, 2 million.
- We will also construct roads & stormwater in Heidelberg Ext 23 & 26 at a cost of R8, 5 million.
- We will implement a project to construct roads & stormwater in Devon, Impumelelo Ext. 2 at a cost of R1, 5 million.
- An amount of R3, 85 million will be spent on resealing of our roads.

## **On Water and Sanitation – 2013/14**

- Our government's commitment to addressing water and sanitation challenges has been displayed by the creation of a new department nationally under the leadership of Minister Nomvula Mokonyane.
- We are implementing a project aimed at eradicating informal settlements in Ratanda through installation of water and sewer reticulation in Ratanda Ext 8 at a cost of R6, 8 million.
- We will install a Back-up power Supply at Emmarsdale water Pump-station that is supplying Ext 23 and 26 at a cost of R300 000-00 to ensure that water supply is not interrupted in case of a power failure.
- Through the Integrated Incentive Grant (EPWP) we are implementing the following projects at a cost of R1 million:
  - War on Leaks
  - Maintenance of Stormwater Channels

- Waste Water Works
- Maintenance of Parks, Cemeteries and Sports Facilities
- 55 job opportunities have been created.

## **2014/15**

- We will spend R3, 5 million to upgrade water pipelines in Heidelberg.
- In an effort to mitigate water distribution losses we will spend a total of R2, 6 million on a project for Water Conservation & Demand Management.
- We intend to upgrade the sewer network in Heidelberg Industrial area at a cost R500 000.

## **Cemeteries – 2013/14**

- We have extended the Ekuthuleni cemetery at a cost of R1, 1 million.
- We installed a fence at Kwazenzele cemetery and that project cost R465 000-00.
- In the next financial year we will develop the Devon

Landfill Site and the cost of that project is R9, 56 million.

## **Human Settlements – 2013/14**

### Obed Nkosi Housing Project

- This development is named after our veteran and former Mayor of the then Heidelberg Town Council, Mr Obed Nkosi also popularly known as Mtakababa.
- Through this mixed housing development subsidy project we will be integrating our communities and defying the apartheid spatial planning patterns.
- We are accommodating residents from the informal settlements and backyard dwellers.
- We are currently implementing Phase 2 of this project consisting of 1000 housing units which are currently under construction. Completion of this phase is expected in December 2014.
- The Provincial Housing Department is currently busy with administrative processes to have the EIA approved by GDARD for Kwazenzele Phase 2. Concept design showing proposed land use for the project has been done. Layout plan and engineering designs are still to be circulated to various government departments.

### Impumelelo Ext. 3 and 4 (2014/15)

- In addressing the overflow at the Impumelelo informal settlement, Impumelelo Ext 3 and 4 is the answer where 3400 housing units will be built. The Department of Human Settlement has started with EIA, Geo-tech, Preliminary designs and layout plan.
- The redevelopment of Ratanda Hostel to Community Residential Units seeks to provide proper shelter for current hostel dwellers living in improper conditions, who are mostly black males, and some of them have from 1995 been joined by their families.
- The existing buildings were structurally constructed more than 25 years ago. The introduction of Community Residential Units replaces Hostel Redevelopment program. The first phase of the project consists of 24 units which have been completed and electricity is currently being installed in these units.
- A further total of 220 units are proposed to be developed in Shalimar Ridge. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase consists of 42 units which have been completed and the remaining units are currently being constructed.

We anticipate allocation of the completed units to start during this financial year.

- We have appointed a service provider to establish a township in Rensburg Ext 2 in line with modern norms, policies and principles. The current stands on that land will be subdivided into smaller stands. By subdividing the said properties the municipality will be able to promote mixed income and mixed-tenure human settlements.
- The intention is also to ensure that property can be accessed by all as an asset for wealth creation and empowerment.
- The sites are well placed regionally and are easily accessible from all directions. Providing human settlement in close proximity to where people work will minimize travelling costs and distances also resulting in decreased air pollution from motor vehicles.

## **On Community Services**

Through the Community Services department, our Environmental Health Practitioners continued to roll out programmes to educate communities on food safety and we are monitoring all businesses selling food to ensure that they comply with relevant legislation.

We are also educating communities on the importance of nutrition and healthy eating to reduce and manage diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure which are currently silent killers in our communities. The spread of some of these diseases is as a result of our bad eating habits.

We have held sessions to engage our communities to create the awareness and sensitise them on waste management and recycling in order to minimise illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is a serious threat to our environment and we need all our communities to join hands with us to help combat it.

We will soon look at possibilities of relocating the Waste Transfer Station which is right at the entrance of Ratanda. The location of that waste transfer station says a lot about the planning of the apartheid government.

We have hosted a workshop with those who will be operating mephato.... that is initiation schools to those not familiar with Sesotho.

The aim of this workshop was to educate them on health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS and our policy on initiation schools in order to minimize incidents, accidents and death of initiates.

## **Early Childhood Development**

Early Childhood Development is a critical stage in the life of our children and it is aimed at ensuring that we lay a solid foundation in their education and development.

Through a partnership with NDA and Department of Social Services our ECDs in Lesedi were donated a Toy Truck. This truck has a programme to enable all our children in ECDs access to educational toys in the truck.

We will also be partnering with Kago ya Bana and Hollard Foundation to help empower all our ECDs by;

- mobilizing government, the private sector, local and international donors to increase resource flows to the ECD sector.
- identifying and profiling ECD sites in predetermined areas to access financial and non-financial resources to improve the overall quality of ECD.

## **Libraries**

We are proud to announce the construction of two new libraries in Heidelberg Ext 23 and Ratanda Ext 7. The one in Ext 23 has been handed over to the municipality and we are in process acquiring books in order for the public to start utilising it. The Ext 7 library will be handed over as soon as construction is completed in due course.

## **New Clinic**

Programme Director and Ladies and Gentlemen, a land has been identified for building a new clinic here in Heidelberg, officials of the provincial Health Department and our officials are busy with due processes and construction will resume after those processes.

We have upgraded the following sports facilities to ensure that we nurture the talent particularly among the young people.

- Devon, Impumelelo Sport facility was upgraded to the amount of R3 million and 11 job opportunities were created.
- Jameson Park sport facility was upgraded at a cost of R2 million, 10 job opportunities were created.
- In Endicott/Vischkuil we upgraded the Kwazenzele sport facility at a cost of R950 000-00, 5 people were employed.
- Lastly, we renovated ablution facilities and change rooms at Ratanda stadium at a cost of R500 000-00, 5 people were employed.

## **Skills development**

As Lesedi Local Municipality we remain committed towards empowering our young people through internships and learnerships. Beneficiaries are young people between the ages of 18 to 35 and our employees.

We are currently implementing the following learnerships and internships:

- Horticulture – October 2013 to September 2014
  - 40 interns
- LED – December 2013 to November 2014
  - 10 interns
- IDP – December 2013 to November 2014
  - 3 interns

The following three learnerships commenced in May this year and will be completed in April 2015.

- Road maintenance
  - 32 interns
- Records management
  - 14 interns
- Fire and Rescue
  - 13 interns

We are making a humble appeal to our captains of industries and local businesses to also provide employment to these young people when they complete these learnerships.

As we commemorate 38 years since the Soweto uprising that accelerated our struggle towards a free and democratic South Africa we need to dedicate more energies towards youth development. We will work together with other government departments and the private sector to ensure that we improve our efforts towards youth development.

We have recently adopted our revised local economic development strategy after engagements with all relevant departments and our captains of industries.

In creating sustainable employment and more business opportunities we need to position our municipal area as an investment destination of choice for all potential investors. We are strategically located among major roads in our country and we need to benefit from that advantage.

The development of the long awaited Heidelberg Mall is a demonstration of our commitment towards enhancing our local economy. The construction of the mall is well on track and it will officially open in October this year.

- The value of the mall development is estimated at R525 million.
- 2300 job opportunities have been created during construction.

- 1100 permanent jobs will be created once the mall is completed.
- A turnover of R795 million is expected over the first year.
- The mall will have 98 shops and 4.2 million shoppers/visitors are projected.

We are confident that the operation of the mall will make a difference in our people lives and grow our local economy significantly.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity and thank all the MMCs, the ANC Caucus, fellow Councillors, and our staff members.

Ours is a calling to help make our area of Lesedi a better place to live in.

We continue to count on the unwavering support and commitment of our Ward Committees, CDWs and community based structures to ensure that all our people take part in the development of their lives.

The task of developing our communities can never be left to government alone but both the civil society and the business community have a crucial role to play.

As elected politicians from the African National Congress and opposition parties we should at all times be driven by the desire to serve. All our officials must all times understand that their duty is provide quality services to our people.

I would also like to extend a special gratitude to my husband, my daughter, my parents and my in laws for their continued support.

As an ANC-lead municipality we want to assure you our people that your faith in us is not taken for granted.

Join us and let us all work together to move our beautiful nation forward.

I thank you