

**State of the Local Address by the Executive
Mayor of Lesedi Local Municipality,
Cllr Lerato Franscina Maloka,
at Heidelberg City Hall, 25th July 2013**

Mr Speaker of Council, Cllr Simon Moremi
The Chief Whip of the ANC, Cllr Ernest Dlamini
Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and Members
of Mayoral Committees of various municipalities;
Regional Secretary of the ANC in the Sedibeng Region,
Cde Bob Mthembu and members of the Regional
Executive Committee here present;
Leaders of the Alliance;
Leaders of Opposition parties;
Honourable Councillors;
Municipal Manager of Lesedi Local Municipality,
Mr Ayanda Makhanya and members of your Senior
Management Team;
Municipal Managers of our sister municipalities and
senior managers of government departments here
present;
Religious and business leaders;
Members of the media;
Distinguished guests, comrades and friends:

It's an immense honour and privilege to address this grand gathering on this occasion of the state of our Local Municipality.

We gather here today to give a frank account on the State of our Municipality, one year before South Africa celebrate the second decade of democracy and a few weeks after the State Of the District Address which led the way as to where we are heading as a family of Municipalities.

Mr Speaker, allow me on behalf of this Council to wish a speedy recovery to the world's icon "**Tata Madiba**", who is hospitalised for a recurring lung infection. All our prayers are with him and his family during this difficult time.

The month of June is the youth month, where we pay tribute to all our heroes and heroines who paved the way for the birth of the democratic South Africa we now enjoy. Without them, South Africa would not have been what it is today.

Our message to the youth of today, is to learn from the determination showed by the youth of 1976. That they capacitate themselves and take advantage of the opportunities presented to them, mainly by government such as education and the enabling funding that is available in this regard.

We further plead with our youth to refrain from substance and alcohol abuse and to resist all forms of temptation leading to other social ills.

The Speaker of Council, on the administrative side of things linked with the dictates of the Operation Clean Audit. This municipality is hard at work, sleeves are up and jackets are down.

The 1st of June 2013 saw the going live of our newly improved website with a fresh look and new information.

We acknowledge and we are aware of the fact that it is still work in progress. However, we cannot withhold our excitement to mention that 1263 visits have been recorded since the new website during the same month of June 2013.

This accomplishment is closely followed by the unveiling of a new Corporate Identity Manual on the 1 July 2013.

With regards to policy advocacy, most of our council policies are under review and new ones being developed.

These policies range from HR, Finance to ICT in terms of their specific categories. To that end, those policies will be tabled before the relevant Section 80 committees, in not too a distant future.

Mr Speaker, while we have had good times and good memories to remember and rejoice, we also have shared moments of grief such as the untimely death of Mr Vuyani Patrick Ndzinyana whose contribution as our CFO didn't go unnoticed. May his Soul Rest In Peace.

We further want to announce the appointments of new Executive Managers for the departments: Community Services, Infrastructure Services and Municipal Support Services during the last council sitting.

As a matter of great concern, this gathering sits against the backdrop of a series of violence mostly targeted at

foreign-owned shops in certain parts of our beloved country. These attacks have put our country in a bad light.

South Africa is a country of integrity and honour internationally, but these attacks on our brothers and sisters do not do us any good as a peace loving nation.

We call on community members in the affected areas to give peace a chance. We must all ensure that a repeat of the 2008 xenophobic violence does not happen again.

It's almost a month since the whole African Continent celebrated the Africa Day on the 25th of May 2013, marking the 50th anniversary of the OAU (Organisation of African Unity) and these xenophobic attacks negatively affect the gains of the African unity.

Mr Speaker, within the same period, we also celebrated the National Child Protection Week which started on the 27th May 2013 till 02 June 2013 a day after the International Children's Day. The theme of this year's campaign is titled: "Working Together To Protect Children".

Since the beginning of the year. There have been many reports on sexual violence against children, children neglect, high increasing new born baby deaths, and all other forms of crimes committed against children in general, as it has been reported throughout the country.

All these make us hold the same views and belief as the NGO called Molo Songololo that more can still be done in addressing the plight of our children.

That Child protection must be a priority. There are far too many reported cases of child neglect, abuse and some very horrible cases of violence against children.

With regards to building a local economy to create more employment (decent jobs) and sustainable livelihoods.

This municipal Council adopted the 2011 Local Government Elections Manifesto of the African National Congress as the Programme of Action.

Indeed we are committed to contributing meaningfully to the fight against the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. This led us to refining our

strategies to ensure alignment with the **National Development Plan**.

The Lesedi Local Municipality still offer huge investment opportunities as we play catch up with other municipalities in our category.

During the **2012/2013** Financial year the following were achieved:

- **Upgraded 11kv electrical network** in the Industrial area Heidelberg Project, the project is **80 % complete** to the tune of **R 6,5 Million**. And it is aimed to be completed by the end of **June 2013**
- There was an installation of **New electrical reticulation for 300 stands at Obed Nkosi' Project**. The **project is 90 % Completed** costs to the municipality is **R 2,7 Million** to be **Completed by the end of June 2013**
- It should be noted that the municipality spent an amount of R200 000 during the **Installation of LED Street lights in Heidelberg area**, the **Project is 100% Completed**

- We have **built a 2Km of New Roads and storm water in Bergsig**, the **project is 100% Complete** costing the municipality an amount of **R5,5 Million**
- Mr Speaker, the Lesedi Local Municipality has **Extended the Rensburg library**, the **project is 100% Completed** costing the municipality **R750 000**
- Honourable councillors, this municipality has **built 10,2Km of New Roads and storm water** in Heidelberg Ext 23, 26 and Ratanda Ext 7, **the Project is 70 % Complete** and costing **R28,6 Million of MIG Funds**. And the project is going to be **Completed at the end of July2013**
- We also managed to **upgrade main sewer pipeline in the Industrial area in Heidelberg**, and the **Project is 85% Complete** costing the municipal council **R1,4 Million**. It is expected to be **complete at the end of June 2013**.
- Through the EPWP we managed to **appoint 221 temporary workers** on our Capital projects.

Through a combination of various projects, Mr Speaker Lesedi Local Municipality created a total of 3939 jobs between 2009 to date. Either as temporary or permanent that include, but not limited to, the following

- There were 100 Temporary workers employed in the Food for Waste Programme
- The War on Leakages – employed 19 temporary workers
- The Waste Works – employed 5 temporary workers
- The Cleaning of Stormwater channels – employed 10 temporary workers
- The MIG Roads & Stormwater Projects – employed 146 Temporary Workers
- Electrical Projects – employed 25 Temporary Workers
- There were 6 CLO's appointed in various projects
- During the building of 40,6 km roads & stormwater with paving in RDP areas – 1 585 temporary workers were employed
- During the construction of the TM2 project, the Group 5 employed 333 active local community employees with 23 being permanent

- Other EPWP (LLM) Program jobs created:
- Cemeteries 10 permanent
- Sports Grounds 5 permanent
- Parks 5 permanent

Mr Speaker despite the fact that these figures suggest that there is an increase in the employment rate.

However our unemployment rate still remains high and unacceptable although it was reduced from 37% in 2001 to 25.9% in 2011. There is more we can do and achieve for our people.

With regards to Human Settlements, I have a pleasure in announcing the following projects either underway or as completed:

- The Ratanda and Shalimar new CRU's

Kwa-Zenzele

- 240 housing units

Impumelelo Extension 2 Project

- 1249 housing units

Obed "Mthombeni" Nkosi project

- 6000 water and sewer reticulation and houses

Tokolohong Project

- 290 stands

Impumelelo Extension 3 & 4 Project

- 3400 stands

Feasibility Study underway

We have formalised the following informal settlement within our municipality.

- 238 stands in Ratanda Extension 8 in the process of being formalised
- 1259 informal settlements in Impumelelo formalised.

These collective efforts have seen the LLM making a serious impact on housing delivery. We have since 1997 built 10 000 40m² houses. Meaning a better life for our people.

This accomplishment will be followed by handing over of title deeds in Obed Nkosi.

The Obed Nkosi Housing project is a mixed income development by which we hope to achieve community

intergration for all the people from different cultures, different walks of life, classes and races.

In improving the face of our municipality, we have planned to spend specific amount of money through the following number projects:

- EPWP Programme – R1 million
- War on Leakages – R1 million
- Londindalo alien vegetation eradication project – R 2.2 million
- Wetland rehabilitation – R 2 million
- Eco-furniture factory – R 2 million
- Construction of Valpre Plant
- Construction of Transnet Pipeline and bulk liquid terminal
- Zone of Opportunity:

This will see a construction of a 33 000m² regional shopping mall at a development cost of R550 million privately funded.

In its operating stage, this mall will retain a local consumer bill of between R150 million to R200 million

per year which is currently spent outside the municipality due to lack of national retail stores.

On the job creation levels, during the construction of the mall not less than 500 jobs will be created. Meanwhile during its operational stage, between 800 and 1000 jobs will be created.

We further believe that the abovementioned projects have indeed stimulated economic growth, created jobs and advanced economic empowerment in the key sectors of the municipal economy.

Having said that, all of the above will be bolstered by our relentless efforts to maintaining sight on empowerment of our SMMEs.

Thus our efforts have resulted in the actual development of an LED strategy for speedy progress in our LED movement.

Mr Speaker, this municipality has again won the Gauteng Clean and Green campaign and additional four of our wards have won different awards.

In this regard, I want to express our sense of appreciation and gratitude to the following ward councilors since it is through their wards that our municipality is again on the news headlines. Our best regards go to:

Cllr(s)

1. Ward 7: Cllr Joyce Phahlane
2. Ward 5: Cllr Doctor Mkhwanazi
3. Ward 3: Cllr Thembi Ramothibe
4. Ward 13: Cllr Sonto Vilakazi

Thus we have continued with our tradition and culture of keeping this municipality clean at all material times, without losing the momentum and keeping that eye for beauty in a clean environment.

- The Reconstruction of all the Municipal buildings burnt during the 2012 Riots to an amount of R20 million

Mr Speaker, this by implication means that there is going to be a return to normality in terms of providing all

services to our communities in the best way they once knew at long last. This will commence in Mid July 2013.

At the same time we cannot afford to spare our communities from paying for the services consumed.

We make this call due to the negative impact that non payment of services has had on our financial standing and ability to provide services seamlessly.

We plead with our communities to return to the culture of making payment for what they have consumed because the municipal council intend implementing its credit control policy fully at the beginning of August 2013.

However, the municipal council will extensively consult with its communities during the month of July 2013 on how the credit control policy will be implemented.

In this regard we extend our invitations to all our indigents to register for assistance including those who need such assistance.

Mr Speaker I speak before you and want to take pleasure in announcing our plans on infrastructure

development in fighting underdevelopment in our communities over the next 3 financial years as budget commitments:

- **2013/2014**

- Construction of the Early Childhood Development Centre in KwaZenzele
- Construction of tannery factory at Impumelelo
- Construction of sports field in Jameson Park
- Upgrading of Impumelelo and KwaZenzele Sports field
- Construction of roads & stormwater in Heidelberg extension 23 and 26
- Construction of Libraries at Ratanda Extension 7 & Heidelberg extension 23
- Eradication of the bucket system in Ratanda Extension 8

2014/2015

- Construction of roads & stormwater in extension 23 & 26 as well as KwaZenzele

- Electrical reticulation for 1000 stands at Obed Nkosi & bulk supply
- Conversion of the existing hostel in Ratanda into family units
- Construction of 1600 low cost housing units in Impumelelo Ext. 3
- Installation of new bulk electrical infrastructure in Impumelelo Ext. 3

2015/2016

- Construction of 2000 low cost housing units in KwaZenzele Phase 2
- Installation of new bulk electrical infrastructure in KwaZenzele
- Construction of the new reservoir in KwaZenzele for Bulk Services
- Construction of a new sewer plant in KwaZenzele

Mr Speaker and Honourable Councillor's the Lesedi Local Municipality allocated in its budget for 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years

Total budget is R507 321 000,

OPEX R489 m,
CAPEX R 62 m for 13/14 FY
Total budget is R550 903 000,
OPEX R522 m,
CAPEX R 56m for 14/15 FY
Total budget is R605 251 000,
OPEX R561 m,
CAPEX R 58m for 15/16 FY

In Conclusion Mr Speaker, Distinguished guests and Fellow Citizens of Lesedi,

We placed before this assembly the budget which displayed that our term of office remains fully committed to the vision of the municipality, implying that we remain ready to spare neither strength nor courage to see its actual realisation.

We remain vigilant to the reality that between our collective vision and its actual realisation stands a dark shadow of incredible diverse factors that must be consistently surmounted.

Mr Speaker, I would like to end with this quote by Winston Churchill:

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved”

I thank you!!!