

Speech by The Executive Mayor Lerato Francina Maloka on the occasion of the State of the Municipal Address held in Heidelberg on the 14 June 2017

Honorable Speaker, Cllr Mluleki Nkosi

The Whip of the Ruling Party, Cllr Mzwakhe Mtshonyane

Members of the Mayoral Committee;

Leaders of all political parties in Council;

Honorable Fellow Councilors;

Acting Municipal Manager Mr. Isaac Rampedi, and the Senior Management of the Municipality;

Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Council,

Cllr Busi Modisakeng

The Regional Secretary of the Ruling Party, Comrade Bheki Ngobese

The leadership of Business, Labour and Civil Society;

Fellow residents of Lesedi City;

Distinguish Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are gathered here today, to listen to the Lesedi State of Municipal address. This address is as a result of intense process of consultation during IDP ward public meetings in all 13 wards, internal engagement with various units of our administration, business breakfast and broadly stakeholders of our beautiful and historical solid base.

The address is precedent by the Sedibeng address which really provided clarity on the journey towards Vaal city. We are full of

sense of hope that the district will contribute in creating a regional economic stability and resource mobilization for the whole district.

Batho ba Lesedi it is sad however that this gathering comes at the time when women and children are confronted by a war of rape and abuse. We invite all men who love, respect and care, to take a stand together with us to condemn and wage a war in favour of women and children. ***Good men don't rape and kill but provide safety and protection at all times.***

Our country is at a trying moment in the economic front. We hope that our national leadership will continue to engage financial captains and rating agencies to manage this crisis. The challenge of investment downgrade is huge. Unemployment, poverty will rise and our economy will prevent government from achieving its objectives.

We are also delivering this address under lot of destructive, populist criticism that does not stand to benefit anyone. Even though we are all subject to scrutiny however it is important to send a message to the forces of darkness that we are marching forward. This march is well constructed by the August 2016 elections results, the ANC Manifesto and the final composition of the governance structure of Lesedi.

Honorable Speaker allow me to borrow the words from Maya Angelo a great poet of our time on the poem titled, **I RISE**

***"Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise"***

I invite all progressive forces to rise together and focus on the ball as soccer players say.

The theme of the address is **“The year of Oliver Tambo to explore developmental potential growing from small to big”**

The year of Tambo represent dedication, wisdom and ability to explore beyond your current limitations. This is what Tambo represents to us. OR Tambo had he lived he will be turning 100 years. However in the ANC we believe that his ideas live with us. As former President Mandela said *“I say that Oliver Tambo has not died, because the ideals for which he sacrificed his life can never die. I say that Oliver Tambo has not died because the ideals of freedom, human dignity and a colour-blind respect for every individual cannot perish.”*

Our commitment guided by the theme is to explore beyond limits. Our determination is focused on a shared growth and development agenda for our municipality. I am more determined and inspired by the words by OR Tambo when he was addressing on the vision of the people of South Africa in 1976 at the UN assembly which he said :

“Our peoples, with their varied cultures which are continuously mingling and interacting to their mutual enrichment, exhibit, despite their conditions, a great love for life and a sensitive joy in the creative and humane endeavors of the peoples of the world, without exception. These ordinary, industrious and peaceful people want to revolutionize themselves and their country.”

I have no doubt that we the people of Lesedi will and are revolutionarising ourselves without exception to make Lesedi better than yesterday.

Inspired by our theme I wish to express my gratitude to the young lions of our struggles who sacrificed their life’s and challenged apartheid government by rejecting Afrikaans as a medium of

instructions in the curriculum. To the generation of 1976, we lower our municipal banner and humble ourselves to you. We are where we are because of your determination. Your ability to explore and wage a war with bricks against guns. Our theme impose upon the youth today not to accept the existing limits but to go beyond, from small to big.

As we celebrate 41 years of youth struggle this month, let me take this opportunity to invite the youth organized and unorganized towards our shared vision. Our contribution in the Tshepo 1000 000 will be to organize the participation and involvement of the youth in all skills trainings and ensure mainstreaming. We will work very close with the provincial government to benefit our youth in the Gauteng at work programmes amongst other things.

Our procurement policy create an opportunity for preferential space for the youth. I will give full mandate to the MMC of finance and the CFO to always monitor the involvement of the youth in municipal lead projects but also seek the involvement of the youth in all other developmental projects in this financial year. A set aside of 30% of capital projects in the budget will be made available for youth owned companies in particular and all other previously disadvantaged groups. However these companies must qualify according to the procurement policies of the municipality.

Speaker let me take this opportunity to announce that we will be hosting a Skills and Economic Development Youth Summit on the 21st of June 2017 as part of youth month celebrations. I invite young people to take up this opportunity and participate.

Once more OR Tambo would have warned, that the nation that does not nature its youth does not deserves its future. As a product myself of youth movement I place to the disposal of the youth our municipality, our budget, my commitment, time and little knowledge for the better use.

Honorable Speaker, as we do our work we are always guided by the aspirations of the freedom charter. The freedom charter makes it mandatory that the people shall govern. The strength of ward committees and the IDP consultative meetings must at all times be performed not as a favour but an obligation. We will in the financial year put an amount of R300 000 for public participation. The people can only govern when they take part, consulted and informed. I will lead a municipality in a transparent and accountable way to give real meaning to the freedom charter demands.

The freedom charter has given us a blue print of a society we seek to have. A nonracial, non-sexiest, democratic South Africa. Let us say together, that in Lesedi there's no space for racism and brutal attacks on women and children. Security and comfort can only be achieved when communities work very closure with the police. The municipality will ensure the effectiveness of the community safety forums, neighborhood watch and our traffic officers will improve visibility. Some cars are used to transport body parts, stolen goods, only when we improve on road blocks for roadworthiness and searching can we realise these noble goals.

On the 11th May 2017 we hosted an important launch with the Gauteng Department of Community Safety in the Shalimar Ridge taxi rank. The Namola app interfaces with a local alarm manufacturer allows poorer households in the community to benefit from the same crime-fighting technology as the more fortunate. This technology is another example of how technology is being introduced that seek to protect the vulnerable women. This system has dramatically improved police dispatch times and accountability. It is the world's first "Uber for Police" system. I am pleading with all women to download this app.

Fellow compatriots the National government has adopted 2030 vision through the national development plan. The NDP has influenced our vision as the municipality. The achievements of the

NDP equally represents the opportunity for the achievements of our municipality.

The National Development Plan highlights the importance of infrastructure investment in meeting the social and economic objectives of the country. The NDP states that *"South Africa needs to invest in a strong network of economic infrastructure designed to support the country's medium and long-term economic and social objectives. This economic infrastructure is a precondition for providing basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications and public transport, and it needs to be robust and extensive enough to meet industrial, commercial and households needs."*

For us as well, we have said our vision by 2030 is *"Lesedi Municipality will Be a smart, innovative, efficient, people centered and performance driven Municipality providing a safe and healthy living environment and high quality Municipal services for its communities"*.

I stand here today to commit that the core and key of our work will to contribute in the attainment of our vision. We fully understand the NDP articulation on infrastructure investment as a precondition for services and economic development that is why we are investing an amount of R80 million rand on all infrastructure projects in this financial year of 2017-2018.

Honorable Speaker, our performance driven approach will be further guided and it will also rely on the Provincial government Transformation, Modernization and Re-Industrialization Ten Pillars towards an integrated city region. These pillars include:

- Radical economic Transformation
- Decisive Spatial Transformation
- Accelerated Social Transformation
- Transformation of the State and Governance
- Reindustrialization
- Modernization of the Economy

Modernization of Human Settlements and Urban Development

Modernization of the Public Service and

Modernization of Public Transport Infrastructure, taking the lead in Africa's new industrial revolution.

Given the above I have no confusion in my mind that we in Lesedi will leverage from all opportunities emerging from national, provincial and the district government's programmes to enhance our resource capacity and position our city as a developmental potential.

We will improve our Intergovernmental relations and collaboration. Ours is not to resist the global city region but is to position ourselves as a heritage destination, a meat and maize market, tourism, the only inland fuel storage and a nest to harbor peace and harmony.

Councillors, I will in the next few months embark on a journey across the province and our country talking to necessary role players to attract investment, developmental initiatives, grants and funding for the implementation of the IDP.

I have already started discussions with various entities to get support on the emergency, waste removal and traffic vehicles something that I will give feedback on before the end of the year.

We have to collaborate for the following reasons: to improve our institutional weaknesses, infrastructure investment, job creation, opportunities for entrepreneurs and the provision of basic service to our communities.

The journey of fast tracking socio-economic development continues and we invite residents to rally alongside. At the core of this journey is the creation of jobs for sustainable livelihood, reduction of poverty levels, reducing the gaps of inequalities, and building a capable, developmental, cohesive and prosperous municipality.

This has not been an easy journey but we should not spend time on what happened but on what to do. We must continue to partner with civil movements, faith based organizations, labour and business fraternity in our endeavor to build a sustainable environment.

I personally think we have collectively managed the storms and have emerge under difficult period, but equally we have had best moments and achievements worth mentioning.

1. The people of Lesedi, let us share what many wish not to mention, we have received an unqualified audit report in the past financial year. Let me make reference to the AG comments *"I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. The financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Lesedi Local Municipality as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with SA standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA"*.
2. We have with no fear to state the constructed 2.86 km roads in Vischkuil and the 1.82km roads in extension 23.Heidelberg.
3. Beautification of Ratanda through modern parks in the entrance.
4. Bulk water infrastructure KwaZenzele
5. Water pipeline and Reservoir at 90% towards completion
6. Refurbishment of Mpumelelo Stadium
7. Installation of a Dual Purpose Library at KwaZenzele for the value of R1.5m
8. We supposed to be celebrating the community residential units however we started well and today we are sitting with challenges. I wish to inform communities that we will work with the national and provincial government to find solution including mobilization of business sector.

9. Honorable Speaker, keeping in mind that we announced the Lesedi Transit Hub (R4bn Investment) during last year's state of the municipal address. Let me give progress and hope for the future. This project is about warehousing port, mixed land use, student housing, we are currently processing all necessary logistics to ensure that it gets off the ground, with Vischkuil ready with the service center.
10. Vopak is one of the flagship projects which will change the economic landscape of Lesedi Local Municipality. The project is in the final stage procurement and implementation is expected to start around September this year. This is an investment of about R1 bn and will ignite the realization of Bulk Inland Fuel Terminal Hub in Lesedi which will unlock opportunities for Youth employment and SMME opportunities
11. In an effort to advance the aspirations of our people in farming. Through the Jameson Park Commonage 483ha of arable land was leased to 3 cooperatives at Jameson, Today the project is still running well by young people. We are proud that we are producing maize and soya even though at some point there were challenges with drought. We are proud of these coops, they have demonstrated that it is possible with government support. **Re ya ikgantsha ka lona!!** We have done more but acknowledge that much still to be done.

Speaker let me inform the Lesedi community that all community services tariff will increase as of July 2017 with only 6.4%. It is important to say that these increases are not local based choices but necessary from ESKOM, National Treasurer and Rand Water.

The people of Lesedi let me state a fact and a potential of growth. About 97% of the population within Lesedi Local Municipality have access to potable water, the informal settlements are supplied through communal taps which are situated within the 200m radius

in terms of walking distance. Areas which are remotely located away from the existing water supply infrastructure, are catered for through water tanker service.

On sanitation we are proud that 90% of the population have access to sanitation service, the average response time to sanitation related complaints is less than 24 hours in accordance with the norms and standards. The average Green Drop Score of the Municipality is standing at 75%.

The prevalence of informal settlements and overall migration impacts negatively on the provision of sanitation service. There is a need for upgrading of the existing bulk sanitation infrastructure, to cater for the Housing developments i.e. Obed Nkosi, Kwazenzele phase 2 and Mpumelelo ext. 3. The existing Waste Water Treatment Works will soon be running out of capacity. I am pleased to announce that we have a plan. The expanding construction work in Kwazenzele phase 2 and Mpumelelo ext 3 will commence in 2018, while the Obed Nkosi will start soon lead by ERWARD on our behalf where an amount of 5.8 million will be spent.

On electricity, we wish to announce that any citizen who want to change from single phase conventional meter to pre-paid meter will only pay R 1200 unlike in the past paying R2500. Also change from three phase conventional meter to pre-paid meter at a cost of R1500 only.

We are a municipality that is biased to the poor and the working class. Our concrete plan for the indigents, LLM has a budget of R42 mil on Indigent relief, and this is **synonymous** with high unemployment rate, and this is a deep concern. Municipality is really struggling to meet the demand of our community to create the balance.

There is perpetual and **exponential** increase in the number of indigents. Through the Executive Mayor's Indigent recruitment drive, there were 5100 applications, and approvals will take place in due course. We are committed to assist and provide relief for the poor and the working class.

Our commitment guided by the theme is to explore beyond limits. I am pleased to announce that in the financial year 2017-2018 our budget is R837 million rands.

Our heritage defines who we are. We, therefore, have a responsibility to lead the preservation of our history. It is in this spirit, that our unsung heroine like Mme Alina Mokoena who was commonly known as "Anti-Pass" will find expression in our plans to documenting the history of this town.

During September heritage month we will host many significant events to celebrate our diverse cultures towards a united people. Additional in honoring Mme Mokoena we will have the Lesedi heritage route registered with the South African Heritage Council. We will initiate, collaborate and have joint programmes with all necessary stakeholders in the endeavor to build one heritage programme recognizing diversity but promoting unity.

Honorable Councilors in this financial year we will spend money for projects that must change the lives of our people. We going to:

1. Upgrading the Jameson Park Substation spending R1,8m
2. R6million will be spend on Energy Efficiency Projects
3. Relocation of Electrical Meters at Mpumelelo
4. Installation of High Mast Lights for the amount of R1,05m
5. Upgrading of Jameson Park Substation for R1,8m
6. Upgrading of Water Pipeline at Vischkuil at the amount of R8m
7. R16 million for the Replacement of Water Asbestos pipes in Heidelberg CBD

8. Upgrading of Floating Roof Reservoir at H/berg X23 at the amount of R4m.
9. Upgrading of Kwazenzele Sewer Plant at the amount of R10m & Upgrading of Devon Sewer Plant for R2, 5m.
12. Construction of Roads & Storm water at Mpumelelo for R12m
13. We will spend R4 million in Jameson Park for development of roads and R15 million for Ratanda extension 1, 3&6.
14. In our commitment to build knowledge base R1,5million will be spent on the Installation of a Dual Purpose Library at Kwazenzele and the Reconstruction of Impumelelo Library for R9m
15. To advance physical training and healthy life style we will be constructing the Sport Facility in Heidelberg extension 23 for R15.
16. Reconstruction of Impumelelo council offices to ensure services are R1, 8m.
17. Construction of Devon ECD Centre at an amount of R18m & Construction of the Lesedi Centre for vulnerable women and children at R49m.
18. Construction of Devon Tannery & Development of a Mega-Agri Park at Obed Nkosi and Langzekoegat aimed at assisting emerging farmers on production, processing and playing a critical role in the main stream agri-economy. We will invest R30million on this project.

19. An amount of R 5million has been put aside for resealing of Roads

20. The municipality to ensure timely response, one center service station and giving you access to services we have put aside an amount of R2million to establish a fully flashed customer care center. This center, I will personally, with the Speaker monitor to ensure Batho Pele principles are the name of the game.

Speaker all this work we will do with the financial and moral support of the district council, provincial government departments like the Gauteng department of Agriculture and economic development, department of infrastructure development, national government and private sector.

We will explore all potentials to grow a small municipality to a bigger impact.

Through Ntirhisano and Thuthukisa Service Delivery Program we aim to listen, understand and build common approach to problems faced by our communities. The notion that the people are their own liberators will no fade away in our minds. We will ensure that ward councilors do call meetings under the leadership of the Speaker. We must give meaning to the representative and participatory democracy constitutional principles with no fail.

Our service points of the municipality must in practice give real meaning of batho Pele principles.

We are asking you that while we commit, you too commit. The logic of what comes first has been proven to be an excuse or false debate. In this false debate some say let the council give us services first then we will pay, while others argue that municipality need money from you to be able to provide. Today I am saying take a responsibility. The city must provide according to the

constitution and the citizen must pay for service. ***Sisonke, Siyanqoba, asilalanga.***

We must collectively eradicate zinyoka-nyoka connections. We want a common sense of ownership. Whatever asset we build is yours, in moments of unhappiness don't destroy but engage.

Let me take this moment to acknowledge few Lesedi residents who are representing our flag as a municipality and a country. Almaro De Villiers, who will be representing our municipality and country in the commonwealth chess championships 2017. Also acknowledge the PSL player Lebohang Maboja product of Lesedi. Our own Mandla Zwane won the youth awards on music and art. We must celebrate excellence, talent and personal achievements. We do this to encourage all young and old to strive for better and put our municipality Lesedi on the, country and world space.

I take this moment to humble myself and recognize as Mr. Alfred Nhlapo who will be turning 100 years in July. May God bless you to celebrate with us your birthday. Mkhulu was born in 1917 same year as OR Tambo and the October revolution. Happy birthday Mkhulu.

In conclusion Speaker, People of Lesedi I have no doubt that critical to our success lies heavily on what the NDP calls success factors which are:

Focused Leadership

Institutional Capacity

Resource mobilization and agreement on trade offs

Sequencing and willingness to priorities, and

Clarity on Responsibilities.

Once more Speaker I wish to allow Maya Angelo to motivate me, all councilors and workers of Lesedi to find cover in her words to remain strong, resilient and focused, she says:

***"You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise"***

Heidelberg Rise!

Lesedi Rise!

Thank You