



THE STATE OF MUNICIPAL ADDRESS 2017/18

Presented by: His worship, the Honourable Mayor Councillor Masilo
Edward Paya

Date : 30 May 2017
Venue : Tídima Sports Ground, Matseke
Time : 12H00

Molemole Municipality

Madam Speaker, Cllr Moreroa
Chief Whip, Honourable Councillor Rathaha;
Members of the Executive Committee;
Our honourable Ward and PR Councillors;
Baemedi ba Magoshi go ralala le Masepala wa Rena;
Members of the broader national democratic revolution;
Leaders of the Alliance from within our municipality and province wide;
Representatives of the our sister municipality, the Capricorn District Municipality;
Representatives of our Sector departments, public entities and chapter nine institutions
The South African Police Service as well as Traffic services;
Municipal Manager – Mr. Noko Isaac Makhura
Senior Managers, Managers and Officials from various departments in our municipality;
Members of the various Civil Society formations (Youth, Women and People with Disability)
Representatives of Molemole business forum;
Members of the media;
Distinguished guests, comrades and friends; Ladies and Gentlemen;
I take occasion to greet you all;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to reflect on the horrendous acts of abuse against women we have witnessed recently;

I would be remiss to not express my disgust at the recent spate of violent abuse and killing of Women and children in our society;

Few of us, if at all, would dispute the fact that what happened to young Karabo Mokoena (MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE), was horrible in the strongest possible terms –

As a society, we indeed need to stand up and mobilize efforts to discourage this scourge within our midst;

Let us encourage our kids and mothers to speak out against any form of abuse, be it physical or emotional;

This is not a party political matter – but a societal issue that need cooperation from all of us –

This week being “Child Protection week” let us heed the call of our President to expose and condemn acts of abuse of women and children.

Furthermore, I would like to challenge the male species in our society to support the **Hashtag**

Not in my Name campaign!

We are meeting here today just over 4 days after we have celebrated the 54th anniversary of Africa day; You will recall that the day began as a day marking the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) - which is now called African Union;

Formerly known as Africa freedom, “Africa” day has evolved into a platform for creating awareness about all things Africa, in Africa and around the world;

This year 2017, the African Union highlights the theme: ‘Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth!

President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, the president of our Country and ALSO the president of our lovely movement - the African National Congress was apt in his SONA 2017 address when he declared this year as “The Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo: Unity in Action Together Moving South Africa Forward” May I mention that O.R. as he was affectionately known, would be 100 years old by the 27th of October 2017, had death not robbed us of him while we were still looking forward to learn a lot from this iconic figure;

Yes - we could have learnt a lot especially during this turbulent economic and social state we find ourselves in;

This is the most opportune time to constantly borrow from his wisdom as we forge ahead to improve the lives of our people in our third decade of our infant democratic order;

It is perhaps poignant ladies and gentlemen - to borrow from one of his inspirational quotes, and I quote:

“The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest”

Our country is indeed still experiencing horrific triplets of Poverty, rampant unemployment and inequality;

It behoves us as leaders to maximize our efforts to make a serious dent on these endemic scourges;

It is for this reason that our government has resolved to pursue the vision of radical economic transformation to ensure all our people are moved from the periphery of economic activities into the main stream - a more inclusive and representative system that will ensure our people appreciate the fruits of our prized freedom;

The Minister of Finance further gave impetus to the vision in his Budget speech for 2017; by giving us an important caveat when he said: *“sound public finances, the health of our financial institutions, investment-grade credit ratings and our competitive public procurement processes are valued elements in the sustainability and integrity of our transformation path. So also are the clarity of vision and the details of sectoral priorities and programmes set out in the National Development Plan”*

Chairperson;

I am quite humbled to be afforded this opportunity to present the state of our municipality;

I will be presenting to the audience gathered here the report card on our performance in the previous financial year;

And thereafter present the programme of action of our municipality in the coming financial year;

Allow me to share the following Inspirational words by Osborne & Gaebler, because I think they are relevant on an occasion of this magnitude!

“What gets measured gets done;

If you don't measure results - you can't tell success from failure;

If you can't see success - you can't reward it;

If you can't reward success - you are probably rewarding failure;

If you can't see success - you can't learn from it;

If you can't recognize failure - you can't correct it

If you can demonstrate results - you can win public support”

As a third and lower tier of government, Molemole local municipality is indeed guided by the six key performance areas of local government, namely:

| KEY PERFORMANCE AREA | Our Municipal Objective |
|--|---|
| Spatial Rationale | To promote orderly development by implementing integrated development planning and spatial rationale principles. |
| Local Economic Development | To unlock economic potential by creating a suitable environment for investment to facilitate economic growth. |
| Basic service delivery and infrastructure development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of sustainable infrastructure and basic services - Provision of social amenities and promotion of healthy and safe communities |
| Financial Viability | To ensure sound financial management and self-sustainable organization. |
| Good Governance and Public Participation | To ensure that institutional arrangements are transparent, efficient and effective to ensure that good governance & public participation is sustained and enhances transparency and accountability |
| Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development | Ensure administrative support to municipal units through continuous institutional development and innovation |

1. MUNICIPAL TRANSFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The current Council has been inaugurated in August 2016, following the 2016 local government elections; After it has been constituted this council embarked on the process of establishing all council committees with a view to hit the ground running;

There was no time and effort to spare because we are aware that our people need municipal services which we are mandated to proffer them in the most effective and efficient way possible;

Four Councillors were elected to represent the municipality at a District level – The elected Councillors will represent the interests of the municipality for such services as Water and Sanitation services, Maintenance and upgrading of district roads; we hope that they will represent our interest with much aplomb!

We have also managed to conduct the election of Ward Committee members in all our various Wards; In few weeks' time we will be having a Ward Committee conference whose objective is to capacitate them to ensure they understand their responsibilities as the closest face of government;

Thank you Madam Speaker - for traversing all the Wards to facilitate that process;

We are pleased to report that we have managed to keep all our Senior Managers for the duration of their terms - This created the much needed stability in our municipal administration;

We intend to keep the stability intact even after replacing these Senior Managers once their contracts comes to an end;

Premier Chupu Mathabatha reported in his State of the Province address that all vacant strategic positions at municipalities must be filled as a matter of urgency..... “With people possessing the requisite qualifications and skills”;

We have already embarked on a recruitment drive for replacement of those Senior Managers whose contracts will soon be coming to an end;

And we intend to recruit the best possible candidates who will help us to continue where they have left; we shall heed the call of our Premier;

Chairperson – Mmusho WA Rena o bereka le setshaba; We listen to our people;

A total of 10 interns were appointed in the 2016/17 financial year – 05 of them for financial management, 2 for administration and 1 each for Town Planning, HR and for Roads and Storm water subunits;

Furthermore, we have placed 6 learners on experiential learning- to give them the requisite practical experience to complete their qualifications;

Ladies and Gentlemen – Let me take this opportunity to pay my sincerest tribute to Dendron Secondary school for once again putting us on the map – by achieving 68%,24% and 7.6% matric pass rate in for Bachelors, Diplomas and certificates, respectively;

We thank the Principal, Teachers, SGB of the school and all stakeholders for their immense hard work with our learners – Keep it up!

Professor Tinyiko Maluleke has once said, and I quote “Education will not make you rich, it will probably not make you poor – what I am saying is that no one has ever complained that they became poor because of education” (close quote)

I can't agree with him more on this!

We are on course to constitute a Mayoral Bursary committee to ensure the administration of the Mayoral bursary is done in the most impartial manner possible;

A total bursary amount of R 500,000 has been set aside for the 2017/18 to assist learners who have passed matric but could not afford to pay for further education and training - We shall publicise details in due course for those who would like to apply;

We take pride in the fact that we are indeed fulfilling our mandate to contribute to capacity building of society – we hope to increase the number of intakes in the future as we take education and training seriously- we shall not abdicate that responsibility!

Internally, a budget has been set aside for internal staff members who would like to further their studies. We encourage our people to make use of this fund as it will help them to advance their careers –

Notably, funds have been put aside for capacity building of Councillors as well as administrative officials;

2. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairperson;

The previous council has passed an IDP detailing service delivery projects to be implemented in the 2016/17 financial year. Accordingly, the new council had to take responsibility to carry out those programmes.

This, because the IDP is an expression of the wishes of the people and as political representatives voted for by the people - we had to submit ourselves to the wishes of the people;

The municipal council had to also integrate the IDP programmes from the former Aganang into the municipal document to ensure we fulfil our constitutional mandate of discharging services to the new Wards, i.e. Ward 15 and 16;

The municipality has organized a special Mayoral Imbizo for the people of Wards 15 & 16 and some sections of ward 10. The imbizo gave us an opportunity to formally integrate the villages from these wards into the new municipality - to introduce the new councillors to the community and outline the projects from the disestablished municipality that will be integrated into the IDP of Molemole municipality. The imbizo was quite a success especially because it enabled the municipal council to appreciate the service delivery challenges facing the people from those villages;

Furthermore, the municipality partnered with the Capricorn district municipality and organized a successful outreach programme;

The event was organized under the theme: "Operation Theeletsa", whose main objective was to listen to the challenges our people are facing with the intention of drafting a programme of action with other sector departments to resolve them. The rationale for partnering with the district municipality as well as other sector departments was to appreciate the challenges faced by residents with regard to bulk services (water, electricity, social services, housing backlogs, safety and security, sports, etc.), which are not necessarily within the powers and functions of local government. The residents from all the wards were invited to the event and we are pleased to report that it was a very successful event. These operations were followed by the District Batho pele day to report on service delivery initiatives.

The municipal council has also engaged the traditional authorities from various Wards to introduce the new leadership, and especially those from the new wards. We have made it our mission to continue building working relationships with traditional authorities as they play an important mobilization function in our communities.

Importantly, we would also value their support when we implement service delivery projects within their jurisdictions;

Our Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) has successfully organized public participation drives around all our clusters;

We thank all our communities for their attendance – The public hearings gave us an insight into the impact of our projects in the local communities;

Four public participation sessions were held as we prepare for the 2017/18 IDP and Budget, covering all the wards;

As the Council of Molemole re leboga sechaba ka moka sa Molemole for their positive response when we organize these events – Re re le ka moso;

Of course we acknowledge the fact that most of the needs raised by the community are not within our powers and functions as a municipality;

We are working with the District and Other sector departments to address your concerns and report back in our coming outreach sessions;

Programme Director;

It is pleasing to report that the municipality obtained unqualified audit opinion in the 2014/15 financial year, for the second time in a row;

This means our internal control systems are beginning to bear some fruit;

An AUDIT ACTION PLAN has been developed to address all issues raised by the Auditor-General;

We are progressing well on that score with 52% percent of the issues raised already addressed – I want to thank the Management and officials for their splendid work – We can only improve on this great achievement!

We are serious about being one of the few municipalities in Limpopo with a clean audit - of critical importance is that we must not commit the same mistakes raised by the AG again;

Our Audit Committee's term of office will be coming to an end – after 6 six years at the helm!

I want to take this opportunity to pay my warmest tribute to the outgoing external members of the committee for their splendid work during their term of office! I am hopeful Management and municipal officials has learned a lot from this committee in so far as our internal control systems are concerned! Council must start with the process of reconstituting the committee as this is an important governance mechanism for the municipality.

3. BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

We have noted that especially during this rainy season our roads have become quite bad to travel in; In the current financial year we have graded a total of 1,141.9 km of our gravel roads (including sports grounds, parking areas at cemeteries and internal and main routes and storm water control) across all our wards;

To this end we procured a TLB which will go a long way in assisting us with regravelling of roads in our villages – Another one will be procured in the 2017/18 financial year to consistently maintain our gravel roads;

Technical Services will closely monitor our roads to ensure they are graded as and when there is a need; We are on course to appoint a Contractor for the construction of Mohodi Low level bridge by the end of this financial year;

We have successfully completed phase 2 of the Eisleben gravel to tar project. Budget has been allocated to continue with phase 3 of the project in the 2018/19;

Upgrading of Mogwadi internal street is at 81% complete- We hope to sign it off by the latest end of June 2017;

Over R 40 million has been set aside to continue with the 2nd and 3rd phase of the project from the 2018/19 to 2019/20 financial years;

The 2km Maponto gravel to tar project is at 60% complete - We will continue with the next phase of 1.5 kms in the coming financial year.

R 7 million have been budgeted in the 2018/19 financial year for the upgrading of the road between Kgwadu to Botlokwa primary school from gravel to tar;

Budget has been allocated for maintenance of Matipane to Madikana gravel to tar project;

This include, among other things, the construction of storm water along Shalas supermarket up to Fatima;

Our aim is to make our roads safe and in good driving condition, day and night;

The Municipality has inherited an electrification project from the former Aganang municipality - The project, which cost R7, 4 million, covers villages from Wards 15 & 16, referred to as Cluster 3 – benefitting villages like Ga Kolopo, Masehlong, Sekuruwe, amongst others;

We are pleased to report that the project is at 40% complete and it will be completed by August of this year; People from Ga-Phasha will soon be feeling safe at night as we are on course to appoint a service provider to install high mast lights in the area;

A budget has been set aside to continually maintain streetlights as and when it became necessary – we have noted concerns raised in our suggestion books and other service complaints channels;

So far a total of 231 (out of a target of 282) job opportunities have been created during implementation of the above projects;

Although we have experienced delays in the transfer of grant funding for the upgrading of Ramokgopa stadium we hope to have completed the project by end of the calendar year. The consultant has completed the designs of the upgrade and we are currently undergoing SCM processes to appoint the contractor.

Mogwadi Tennis Court has been renovated for a total amount of R 200,000 – We encourage the people of Mogwadi and neighbouring villages to use the court for recreational purposes; Furthermore, we urge our

communities to safeguard these important public amenities as they play a pivotal role in the social upliftment of our society; A further budget allocation of R 950,000 has been allocated in the medium term to upgrade other tennis courts across the municipality.

Nthabiseng Community hall will be renovated in the 2018/19 financial year – We have noted your concerns raised during our IDP and Budget public participation that the community would like to use the hall for other social activities.

We have responded to the needs of our people!

We have resolved to terminate the contractor for Mohodi Sports complex due to poor performance. We are on course to appoint the new service provider to complete the remaining phase 3 on the project - The 4th phase of the project will continue in the 2017/18 financial year;

As we welcome the Community of Ward 15 and 16 we are pleased to announce that budget has been set aside in the 2017/18 financial year for the establishment of a satellite office to ensure they access municipal services;

Details of this project will be communicated further at the start of the next financial year;

Motho sa le a bolela are: MEETSE KE BOPHELO!

And we are aware that most of the issues raised during our outreach programmes relates, in the main, to water and sanitation – which is a competency of Capricorn District Municipality as the authority;

The department of Water & Sanitation is to launch a Call centre for dealing with this challenge – especially in our villages that deserve FREE Basic services;

You will directly contact Operators and report pipe leaks - and other problems that relates to water in your area;

As your local municipality - We will be monitoring its effectiveness to ensure it offers great benefits to our residents;

Details of the launch will be communicated to you in due course;

Other issues like Clinics, upgrading of main roads, provision of pre-schools, amongst others, will be reported at the relevant forum coordinated by the Office of the Premier where these departments are represented;

We shall keep you updated on developments and progress as and when they become available;

Molemole Municipality

4. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As Molemole Municipality we have committed to create a conducive environment for investment to facilitate an inclusive economic growth within our municipality – The Radical Economic Transformation as it were; Over twenty SMME's mostly owned by youth from within our Municipality have been trained on Financial and Marketing Management, Computer literacy, advanced project and programme management, strategic leadership and business management model.

In few weeks' time we will be hosting an annual Investor conference to create a platform for investors, businesses, local SMMEs and aspirant Entrepreneurs to meet under roof and deliberate on opportunities for growing our economy;

Our local businesses, particularly Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises must come to this event as it will help to open up opportunities for other Markets, locally or internationally;

We need to nurture SMMEs as they have the potential to create more job opportunities;

Our Annual Career Expo will also be organized in June 2017 - Grade 12 learners will engage directly with careers and employment experts. The expo will provide youth with information about real jobs and careers now and into the future.

The process of finalizing finer details for Mogwadi shopping complex is at an advanced stage – Project implementation should begin in the second half of the financial year;

This would create another opportunity to unlock the local economic growth potential through the multiplier effect!

Just over a 1000 people have benefited through the Community Works Programme – these people have been recruited since 2013/14 financial year and placed within communities to do maintenance of public amenities like school, libraries, community halls, and cemeteries, amongst other things - for a monthly stipend;

5. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Our revenue collection rate is still a serious challenge;

It is granted I must say – that an increase in revenue will help us to indeed embark on more service delivery projects;

We have once again fallen short of our target for the 2016/17 financial year – failing to collect more than 50% of our target for the 2016/17;

THIS IS A WORRYING FACTOR!

We shall continue to engage the communities of Morebeng and Mogwadi to resolve the long standing impasse to ensure residents resume payments of rates to reduce our reliance on grant funding;

Other alternative sources of income shall also be considered as we move forward;

We are on course to fully migrate our accounting system to MSCOA come the 1st of July 2017 - as per the requirement by the National Treasury to have a common platform that seeks to achieve uniformity in financial reporting;

We are confident Programme Director - that this will help to improve our supply chain management system; AND will ensure we are able to account for all the assets of the municipality;

We have adopted the central supplier database system at the start of the 2016/17 financial year – This makes it convenient for our business stakeholders to do business with the municipality as the system has reduced the compliance burden of companies that seeks to make business with the state;

Further than that, I am pleased ladies and gentlemen, to report that we will introduce the EFT system as the preferred method of payment for our creditors;

This is another way to smoothen our supply chain system more so for small, medium and micro enterprises which badly need financial resources to grow their businesses;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We do acknowledge that the long walk to our total emancipation is still ahead of us;

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE!

We shall do well to double our efforts as Council, Magoshi, Ward Committees, NGOs, faith based organizations; our Sector departments, district municipality – Management and all officials of the municipality at all levels, the community at large – to complement our efforts and pursue novel methods to advance the developmental agenda of this municipality;

To indeed accelerate service delivery as best we can;

The road ahead may seem tough – But I have full confidence that if we continue to work together in unison;

If everyone does their duty without neglecting anything – if the best arrangements are made;

We shall outpace the challenges facing us - We owe it to both ourselves and indeed the next generation;

KOPANO KE MAATLA – GO AGA SETŠHABA SE KAONE!

HALALA MOLEMOLE HALALA!