

Inaugural Speech By Honorable Mayor, Cllr Masoga

26 March 2006

Programme Director
MEC for Local Government and Housing
Mayors from other municipalities
Representatives of Government Communication and Information Services
Councilors
Traditional Leaders
Business Community
Religious Leaders
NGO's and CBO's
Sector Departments
Friends and Comrades
Members of the Community
Distinguished Guests

Programme Director, let me acknowledge and applaud the people of South Africa and that of Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality in particular for coming in their numbers on the 1st March 2006, to exercise their hard won democratic right to elect their own true representatives at the Local Government Level.

We meet here today just five days after March the 21st, Human Rights Day, which also marks the 10th anniversary of the Constitution of South Africa, the Supreme Law of the Country. The Constitution which outlines the basic principle of Human Rights, which amongst others include:

- The right to equality
- The right to human dignity
- The political right :
 - which further gives all citizens of our country to free, fair and regular elections which one alluded to earlier and of which I have a strong belief that all of us gathered here has exercised that right correctly. It is for this reason that I stand before you here today to say thank you, on behalf of the council you have elected. It is an honour and privilege to address this prestigious gathering.

Programme Director, I wish to acknowledge the outgoing council and congratulate you for your efforts in paving a better platform for us. We know your road was not easy. Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality as known to be is because of you. However, transformation has not come about without hiccups. The integration of Transitional Local Councils into one administration was not a child's play. We salute you for that battle was won to some extent. We are proud as the new council to be your successors. We will continue where you left of. We also plead that you avail yourselves still in transforming this municipality to next level.

We acknowledge that transformation has taken place and a lot has been achieved. Although we are still faced with challenges, you have taken us 'half pad'.

1. You have developed a comprehensive Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
2. You have employed competent staff members (administrators)
3. You began with the development of rural communities. i.e

PROJECT NAME	NO OF HOUSE HOLDS	SCOPE OF WORK	PROGRESS %
Mphahlele – Shotlale	150	Construct bulk pipe @ approximately 2km 75mm UPVC	100
Zebetla Makgopong	800	Drill tow boreholes; Elevated tanks; Small reticulation Purchase of Diesel pump	100
Mphaphemafefe Mafefe	249	Drilling of new borehole; 2x10000 tanks Diesel engine Small reticulation	96

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Programme Director, the municipality is still faced with the challenge of extending to all people the fundamental benefits of the basic water supply and sanitation, electricity and housing. We therefore are ready to unite as councilors to work towards the realization of dreams especially fulfilling dreams

for the rural communities. We have the responsibility for the entire municipality. We have to strike a balance between urban and rural. We have to enhance service delivery in our urban area and also speed up the process within our rural communities.

Our mandate as the municipality is to ensure service delivery to our people. It is for this reason that we have already issued out tenders for the following:-

- Design of Tooseng Community Hall
- Design and extension of Municipal Offices (Civic Centre)
- Supply of tractor, TLB, Tipper Truck to enable us to clear up surrpimdomgs
- Storm Water Drainage for Mathibela and Lebowakgomo Unit A
- Tarring of Roads for Mathibela and Lebowakgomo Unit A

In keeping up with transparent administration, we will ensure that the posts of Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Services Manager are advertised and filled with competent persons before the end of this financial year. Furthermore, in trying to reduce the 5 unemployment level and enabling the municipality to render efficient service delivery, we will advertise further post for cleaners and administrators within a reasonable period of time.

For us as a municipality to render services, we urge all members of the community to pay their rates on regular basis. We promise an improved billing system. This also relates to our rural communities. We are also in the process of making By-Laws and soon our Valuation Roll will be completed.

To the business community and potential investors, this is your opportunity to act in support of our IDP for you know that our rates and taxes are next to nothing. Make hay whilst the sun still shines like MedLeb together with the Industrial Development Cooperation who will be building a private hospital here at Lebowakgomo starting in June. The total of this investment is currently at R25 million and it will be complete in April 2007. This project will definitely set in motion the future economic development of the area and create more jobs.

We also have Lonmin contributing to the development of our communities and are operating in line with our IDP. These two is to mention but a few. We thank everyone contributing to the growth of the municipality. Let it be a challenge to the business people here today for we need you in the realization of our IDP and also in improving the economy of our municipality.

We also need you to demonstrate your social responsibilities by sponsoring our sporting quotes like softball. We all know that the heart of Softball South Africa is Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. But what are we doing to support them? Do we have pride and ownership over them? It is time we take pride as a caring municipality and give the softball champions the honour they deserve. They need improved playing fields, transport to their tournaments, and many more facilities to enable them to compete at the highest level and raise the flag of the municipality high. They are our pride.

Programme Director it is with great pride to mention that as a municipality we are committed in fighting the escalation of HIV and AIDS. We have appointed and HIV/AIDS coordinator, we have a wellness clinic inside Lebowakgomo Hospital headed by Dr Pataki and managed by people living with HIV themselves and we also have caring and compassionate community home based care groups in every ward. With all these resources, we are saying it is time to listen, care and support both the infected and affected members of the community. I urge those who are stigmatizing people to stop and start realizing that we are all responsible and that we are all affected. Our moto is 'motho ke motho ka batho'. Once we practice that, we won't go wrong.

In conclusion, let me leave you with the words of John 10:11 that says: 'I am a good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' As a council we will continue to behave like good shepherds, who through rainy, stormy or sunny days will always strive ensure that all his sheep arrives home well and safe.

- As council, we have an opportunity to enhance and deepen local democracy.
- As council, we have an opportunity to qualitatively improve community participation in the process of decision making in allocation of resources and identification of local needs as enshrined in the constitution.
- As council, we have an opportunity further to put the people at the centre of development, not merely as beneficiaries, but as drivers of transformation.

To my fellow councilors, let me share these four agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz

- **BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD** Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of the truth and love.
- **DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY** Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. 8 When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.
- **DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS** Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform you life.

And finally

- **ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST** Your best is going to change from moment to moment, it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do you best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret.

Programme Director let me end by saying that soon we will be reviewing our IDP and we will be visiting our respective Traditional Leaders and members of the community at ward level. Hope to see people in numbers.

With these words, I thank you.

Amandla!