



THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 STATE OF THE MUNICIPLATY ADDRESS (SOMA) BY HER WORSHIP MAYOR OF MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR MINAH BAHULA HELD AT MOHWELERE, MADODA SPORTS GROUND ON THE 25 MAY 2017.

Honourable Speaker of Council, Cllr Tala Mathope
Honourable Members of the Executive Committee;
The Chief Whip of Council Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego;

MPAC Chairperson Cllr Diketane Paul
Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees and
Honourable Councillors;

Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District
Municipality and the Mayors of the Neighbouring
Municipalities

Traditional Leaders

Mayors, Speakers and Chief whips of our
neighbouring local municipalities;

Leadership of all our Tripartite Alliance structures



Former Mayors of Makhuduthamaga Municipality
and Former Councillors

Leadership of the African National Congress
present here and other political parties
represented in Council;

Business community and Religious bodies;

Non-Governmental Organizations and community
based organizations;

Employees of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality
led by Municipal Manager Mr Eric Moropa;

Senior Managers from our Sector Departments
operating in Makhuduthamaga;

The CEO of Hospitals and Cluster Commanders of
our police stations;

IEC and other Chapter 9 Institutions strengthening
our democracy

Friends from the Media;

Ladies and Gentleman

**Good Afternoon, Ke a le tamiša beng baka, ke
re Thobela!**



Honourable Speaker

I take with deepest gratitude the opportunity to address this Special Council sitting this afternoon. This sitting comes at the time when the nation is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Former President Nelson Mandela signed the final draft into law in December 1996 and it came into force in February 1997. The Constitution laid the solid foundation for a democratic and open society. A society in which government is based on the will of the people. South Africa as a country subscribe to a Constitutional Democracy. We owe our existence as local government to the Constitution. This Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic, law or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid and the obligations imposed by it must be fulfilled. Local Government is the product of Section 40 of the Constitution, Cooperative Governance. Section 41 is the principles of cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations. We convened this forum today to give effect to section 41.1.(c) of the Constitution, “provide effective, transparent, accountable and



Mnogo re šomela diphetogo!

coherent government for the Republic as a whole”. We are here to account to the people of Makhuduthamaga as our constitutional mandate. The Preamble of the Constitution is clear that we must “heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights”.

This Constitution that we are celebrating today, was not brought to us like “MANNA FROM HEAVEN”. The Constitution is a product of a long process of struggle and multiparty political negotiations. The African National Congress led a protracted struggle to ensure that we have this progressive and revolutionary constitution. It is celebrated as one of the progressive Constitutions of the world. We refer to this historically significant document because it remains crucial to the current and future generations. It helps us to be able to comprehend the common challenges that we face as society. We equally refer to history in order to draw valuable lessons from our forbearers, who fought serious, sometimes bloody battles to liberate this country, from the shackles of colonial past and apartheid regime.



Mmogo re šompela diphetogo!

This Special Council sitting, also comes after the presentation of the State of the Nation Address in February by His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma; the State of the Province Address by Limpopo Province's Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha; the State of the District Address by Honourable Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila. Each of these addresses outlined the synergy between national, provincial and local spheres of government; and how the distinct mandate of each responds to the call of moving the country forward.

Honourable Speaker

State of the Municipal Address is an important occasion where the Mayor outlines the Municipality's priorities and plans for the year to the residents. The priorities and plans set the tone for Municipality's deliver in the year ahead. As the backbone of Municipality's work for the year ahead, the municipality will also highlight crucial programmes such as IDP/Budget Consultations and the implementation of Integrated Development Plans. We have converged here at the Madoda Sports Ground, Ga Mashabela for the presentation



of a **'citizen's report'** for the people of Makhuduthamaga.

Honourable Speaker

Our State of the Municipality Address is taking place on the special day in the African Calendar. Today the 25th of May is AFRICA DAY. The theme for Africa Month 2017 is "The Year of OR Tambo: Building a Better Africa and a Better World". Oliver Reginald Tambo is a symbol of Unity. He is a symbol of humility. Oliver Reginald Tambo is a symbol of Hope. He was able to steer the ship of the Congress Movement intact for over thirty years. The legacy of OR Tambo presents an opportunity to reflect on the many sacrifices that were made for the freedom we enjoy today and on how South Africa`s democracy was achieved.

Tambo was honest and optimistic that his dream to liberate South Africa will become reality. May His Soul Rest in Peace. OR mobilised the global community against the apartheid state. He spearheaded an international sanctions **campaign** that brought changes and **democracy in South Africa**. The democracy that we enjoy today. The democracy that he never lived to enjoy.



We convened this State of the Municipality Address today to live the democracy that OR dedicated his entire life for. To account to the people of Makhuduthamaga what we did in the office on their behalf.

Indeed we gathered here today to celebrate his enormous contribution he made to the struggle for the freedom of our people. O.R Tambo was an outstanding soldier, a disciplined cadre and a leader with immense vision and integrity. He was a leader who put the interests of the people above his own. He was indeed a true replica of **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**. The leadership that must be reviewed on the basis of its performance time to time in honour of the legacy of OR Tambo.

Honourable Speaker and members

On behalf of the leadership collective of the fifth Council, formed after the 3rd August 2016 local government elections, I would like to dedicate this platform to thank the electorate of Makhuduthamaga for giving us the mandate to deliver them to the era of **'Radical Economic Transformation'**, which our great forebearers lived and died for. Makhuduthamaga is a name



borne out of the struggle. Our forebearers battled sharply against the apartheid regime for socio-economic justice, in defence of the right to self-determination and ownership of the land. We are still continuing with the struggle for socio-economic transformation currently accentuated in the “radical economic transformation”. In its narrative you will denote that indeed the people wanted a form of livelihood that delivers them out of the shackles of slavery and poverty. **Political freedom without economic freedom will remain irrelevant. The principles of Radical Economic Transformation must find expression in our operations as the municipality. We must do so to advance the wishes and aspirations of the heroes and heroines who fought gallantly for the political freedom that we freely enjoy today.** The likes of **Sepheu Edward Pitso, Mahwidi John Phala, Elias Motsoaledi, Letsau Nelson Diale, Marutle Flag Boshielo, Kgoshigadi Madinoge Kgoloko, Elias Phakane Moretsele Ramphelane Mampuru and Kgoshi Mampuru Mampuru**, to name but a few. May their Soul Rest in Perfect Peace.

We honour and remember this generation of heroes and heroines, in recognition of their



invaluable contribution towards the freedom we are currently enjoying. We remember their kindness and their unwavering courage in improving the lives of all citizens

Honourable Speaker

One of the most pressing challenges facing our municipality is that of revenue generation. Part of our resolutions taken during our recent strategic Planning held in Bela Bela, from 1st - 3rd March 2017 is that, we need to move away from over reliance on grants and be able to generate our own revenue. To that extend, we have received payment from the department of Rural Development for rates debt, R2.1 million rands. The province has established a debt forum which is going to assist municipalities to recover amounts owed by various departments to municipalities which will have a great impact on the financial viability of the municipality.



Mmogo re šomeja diphetogo!

Furthermore, we have developed a program to engage local business and Magoshi on exploration of ways and means to expand the municipality position. The municipality has appointed a service provider in the collection of monies owed by different business institutions for rates. Over and above other mechanisms, we have also published and popularized By-Laws in preparation for the enforcement scheduled for the 1st July 2017. Ladies and Gentlemen, the following are our By-Laws.

Property Rate By Law

Tariff By Law

Debt Collection By -Law

Street Advertising By -Law

Street Trading By -Law

Public nuisance By- Law

And Public Amenity By -Law



All these By Laws are accessible on the Municipal Website.

Honourable Speaker

Our municipality is ready to implement the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (MsCOA) reporting model as expected. This new system will minimize different reporting formats from the municipalities to accelerate service delivery. We are happy to announce that the municipality is ready to implement this system by the deadline date of 1st July 2017. Ladies and gentlemen it is worth noting that the municipality has retained its unqualified audit opinions with matters for 3 consecutive financial years. The municipality has developed a clean audit strategy to achieve an unqualified audit opinion without matters. We have received a trophy from SALGA as an appreciation for our excellent work.

Honourable Speaker

The Radical Economic Transformation cannot be achieved if we continue to ignore the call to empower our SMMEs and emerging businesses. The role of the municipality is to create a viable business environment. In the 2016/17 financial



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year, no funding was granted to SMMEs (small business/cooperatives). This is so because, we have discovered that some cooperatives were funded repeatedly while others do not receive any funding from the municipality. As a result the municipality appointed a service provider to develop an Economic Development Strategy to drive economic development programs in a more equitable and fair manner. This strategy will be implemented in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Honourable Speaker and members of Council

The land ownership structure in rural areas is such that, the municipality does not have any land for development and has to engage Magoshi whenever development programs are to be implemented. In the most recent lekgotla, the municipality has resolved to investigate land availability and acquisition together with Magoshi and COGHSTA.

Honourable Speaker, as we reported last year, about unidentified corpses in our Hospitals which must be buried by us in accordance with the laws of this country. In February this year we were able to bury 46 unidentified bodies in a mass paupers' funeral. We extend words of appreciation to



Mmogo re šomela diphetogq!

Kgoshi Maila, 'Ngwato A Molo' and Kgoshigadi Ntobeng, Matladi who have volunteered to avail burial sites for these corpses. We therefore urge our communities to visit our hospitals to check on their loved ones from time to time, so that when the unfortunate happens, they are able to give them a proper and dignified send off.

Among the thorny issues is the development of Jane Furse Township with emphasis on relocation of District Municipal offices from Groblersdal to Jane Furse and District department's offices from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse. As Makhuduthamaga we are opening all the avenues to help and compliment the District Municipality to achieve their strategic developmental objectives that will contribute towards the development of our town. This development will speed up the establishment of a new township, and that will mean a socio-economic development of our people.

Honourable Members

We have 27 Magoshi in our municipality. The Municipality has previously taken a resolution to embark on a program to construct tarred roads leading to all Meshate. Tarred roads to the



following Meshate are outstanding: Kgoshi Magolego at Ga Magolego, Kgoshi Phaahla at Ga Phaahla and Kgoshi Maila at Maila Mapitsane. These tarred roads will be implemented in the current term of council. We are the only Municipality which has this kind of program in the whole country.

Honourable members of Council

On the 24th February 2017, the people of Limpopo descended in their numbers to the capital city, Polokwane, for the presentation of the **State of the Province Address** by Limpopo Premier, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. We are also humbled by the fact that Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality has been lauded during the State of the Province Address as among municipalities excelling with spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant. (MIG). Ladies and Getlemen the following projects are completed: The construction of Thabampshe to Tswaing access road, Rietfontein to Eenzaam access road. The Following roads are in progress: Access road from Glencowie to Moloï and Kolotela Internal Road. We have also received additional funding of R28m as an appreciation for our spending of MIG. The



Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!

Construction of Thusong Centre at Apel Cross is at an advance stage. This centre will help communities with services such as Home Affairs and social services like grants applications and municipal services.

Honourable Speaker

Much as we are making significant progress in electrifying our villages, we must also state that, our municipality continues to deal with capacity challenges in a number of post connections in the new residential settlement in our municipality.

The following electrification projects, amongst others have been completed: Vierfontein D, Makgwabe, Madibaneng and Maila Segolo. Electrification is an ongoing process of local sphere of government. We will continue with other villages for this 2017/18 financial year, Pele Pele Park, Manotong and Leeukraal to name but few. Service delivery to people is our core mandate

Setshaba sa gesu!

The department of Cooperative Governance Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs is continuing to build RDP houses for deserving beneficiaries in our district. We applaud the MEC



Mnogo re šomela diphetogo!

for that. We are also pleased that COGHSTA continues to provide much needed support to all our municipalities and continue to monitor implementation of service delivery projects. We are happy to announce that our municipality has been allocated 750 RDP houses from this department to build for our people in the 2017/2018 financial year. We have recently joined hands with the department of Treasury led by MEC Rob Tooley and Standard Bank and donated 5 decent houses to 5 destitute families. Among these beneficiaries, is Mankge Family from Jane Furse. Ladies and Gentlemen, this beautiful story is well narrated in our latest edition of Lentsu Newsletter which is in circulation and the Family is part of the audience here with us today. (If they can stand up please, setshaba se ba bone). (We build houses to the economically disadvantaged members of the community in line with the founding values of the Constitution, section 1(a) Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

Magagesu

Youth development remains the heartbeat of our municipality's development. Like any other



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municipality in the country, social ills such as drug abuse, mainly nyaope, remains a challenge. We are hopeful that through our newly established Makhuduthamaga Youth Council, **some of these challenges will be addressed. We will continue to engage our communities through campaigns in an attempt to forge partnership and educate them about the dangers of substance abuse.**

The municipality has also established culture and sports council at ward level for coordination of Sports Arts and Culture activities in the municipality. We firmly believe that in order to promote healthy life styles among our people, sporting activities must be firmly put at the centre of this goal. We promote sports again in order to promote social unity and cohesion considering our diverse and unique background.

We managed to revive Mayor's cup. The Mayor's Cup, an annual soccer tournament, was held at Jane Furse Artificial Turf, under the theme "Youth Development through Football". We have been able to donate soccer balls and trophies. The Makhuduthamaga Mayor's Cup is the major Sport development instrument in our municipality with



the aim of talent identification, nurturing and promotion and also to elevate players to higher structures of football. With that said, we therefore would like to once again congratulate Mocatation Football Club that lifted the 2016 Mayors Cup Challenge. We also have Indigenous Games, like kgati, moruba, morabaraba, which are held in partnership with department of sports, arts and culture. We encourage our people to participate in these games.

Setshaba sa gesu! Our heritage is what we should continue to value from the past and preserve for future generations. It reflects our collective history, defines the places where we live and continue to give our communities their unique identity.

An example of this heritage activities are: Manche Masemola who died for her faith at the hands of her non-Christian parents who at the time feared she would leave and marry the person they would select as her husband. She said: "I would be baptized with my own blood". Her grave at Ga-Marishane/Ga-Phaaahla became the world's pilgrimage centre since 1935. The gravesite continues to attract hundred of tourists.

We appreciate the intervention and honour by our national government to our very own Kgoshi Mampuru



Mmogo re šomela qiphetogo!

Mampuru. Apart from renaming Pretoria Central Prison in his honour, our government has again erected a statue in his remembrance which I hope as the council we have to adopt and declare a heritage site.

Honourable Speaker

We also attend to disaster occurrences within our municipality and organising relief materials. In the interim the municipality collect waste at our nodal points. We are currently engaged in a pilot project to do house to house collection in the targeted specific villages before it could be spread widely in the entire municipal spectrum.

Our Road traffic management has improved in this current financial year as the municipality managed to increase road traffic personnel. We have employed a Traffic Manager and Chief Traffic officer. The municipality is embarking on establishing registering authority and opening vehicle testing station in Nebo. We have recently approved traffic standing orders that will instil the spirit of professionalism and also promoting safety awareness, visible traffic policing and road safety education. Plans are already in place to strengthen and capacitate our traffic officers to execute their work with diligence.

Honourable Speaker.



Mmogo re Šomela dijinetogo!

We continue to learn from fine words of inspiration from former President Nelson Mandela when he said, "Education remains a powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". In order to ensure that his words of wisdom become a reality, we have resolved to establish Bursary Fund to assist learners from poor families to further their studies at tertiary level.

We currently have seventy four former students who are currently qualified through funding from the municipal bursary fund and forty five bursary holders are furthering their studies at various institutions of higher learning in the country as I speak. Twenty of the bursaries were awarded this academic year 2017.

Honourable Councillors

We have embarked on the 2017 Back to School campaign where all councillors visited schools across the municipality, congratulating best performing schools like: Moreku Secondary School in Phokwane, which achieved 100% matric pass in the 2016 academic year. Ladies and gentlemen the best overall learner of



Makhuduthamaga Municipality in the 2016 Matric Results is also From Moreku High School, Leshalabe Motlakadibe Fortune.

Honourable Speaker

Let me take this opportunity to recognise our very own champion of clean and efficient administration Mr Mogobadi Eric Moropa. While it's sad to consider the fact that his term of office ends this month May 2017, we take a strong solace from the legacy of his service to our municipality. Ntate Moropa led a team that took Makhuduthamaga out of its worst position on matters of financial accountability. The steadfast administrative leadership of Ntate Moropa and his management team turned the tale of misfortune to an Unqualified Audit opinion in three consecutive financial years.

I am honoured to preside over a rare occasion of bidding goodbye to this gigantic multi-year achiever of high note.

On behalf of the political leadership of Makhuduthamaga we would like to wish Ntate Moropa the best in his future endeavours as he will be serving the people of South Africa at large in different capacities.

Honourable Speaker, the triumph that Ntate Moropa pioneered is inextricably linked to



Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!

professionalism and stability in the Finance Department. On that note I would like to request this seating to give a resounding round of applause to Ntate Moropa and the Finance Department for their sterling work.

Honourable Speaker

African National Congress as the leading political party in the council has ensured that there is smooth transition in all the councils since 2000. I want to thank my predecessors Cllr Mafiri Kgaola, Cllr Mma Mkhabela, Cllr Matlala Alfred who is the current MMC of Corporate Service in the Sekhukhune District Municipality. The ANC has taught us the principle of Continuity and Change. I am passing special words of appreciation for the solid foundation that they laid for this Fourth Council Collective. Because of their selfless service to the people of Makhuduthamaga we found it easy to continue with the work to serve our people without problems.

We were able to continue with projects of building tarred roads to the Magoshi and we are still on it. We managed to secure an additional office space by purchasing a former Inhance Gym building in Jane Furse.

We are a development oriented Municipality and we call on our Magoshi to avail land for development by the Municipality.



Honourable Speaker

Towards conclusion, I must thank a team of councillors currently in the Fourth Council. Honorable Speaker allow me to thank you Cllr Tala Mathope for ensuring that our council is always business-like.

I also thank the Chief Whip Honourable Chego Kgwedisbotse.

The leader of the Executive Business Honourable Malaka Sam.

You all contribute to ensure that there is stability in the Council and the Executive Committee.

In Conclusion, Honorable Speaker

Allow me to repeat what I said at Tigers FC sports ground on our maiden council at Ga Phahla. I thanked the electorate for having confidence in this collective council.

I also appealed that the council must put the party political differences aside and work collectively to serve our people, **UNITY IS POWER.**

Today we convened this special council, the State of the Municipal Address to reflect on the journey that we travelled.



Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!

I am still optimistic that this council of dedicated leaders will deliver its constitutional mandate. This council will honour the aspirations of Oliver Reginald Tambo.

We thank you all for honouring the invitation to be part of this historic event in the political calendar of Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

We also thank the people of Ga -Mashabela for hosting this event.

The special council, the State of the Municipal Address coincided with the Commemoration of Africa Day. Makhuduthamaga is an integral part of the African Continent and our national interests are fundamentally linked to the continent stability, unity peace and prosperity.

My final words of appreciation goes to the people of Makhuduthamaga for allowing this collective council to lead them.

Lastly I want to thank the African National Congress, the Glorious Movement for giving me an opportunity to lead this Council. It is always an honour and privilege to lead the people.

There is nothing so NOBLE and fulfilling than to serve the people,

Ke a Leboga

I thank You



Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!