

**STATE OF THE  
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS**  
2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR  
Together we move South Africa Forward

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality  
Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!

# THE 5TH STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS

Honorable Acting Speaker

Traditional Leaders

Members of Executive Committee

Chief Whip of Council - Cllr. Malaka

Municipal Manager - Mr. Moropa

Chairperson of MPAC - Cllr. Rankwe

Chairperson of Audit Committee - Mr. Kgafane

Senior Managers

Leaders of Political Parties

All key Stakeholders

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are assembled here at Glen Cowie Sports Ground, where we held our first Council Meeting in 2011 and we are back here to present our last State Of the Municipal Address of our term of office.

It is the struggle of our local freedom fighters that made it possible for us to meet here today and also to celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a democratic system of local government. We have committed ourselves that we will never betray them and that we will continue to fulfill the mandate of our electorates.

The struggle to eradicate poverty has been and will continue to be a central part of the national effort to build the new South Africa.

This State Of Municipal Address takes place when we are sixteen years in the new system of local government, which was ushered in December 2000. We want to use this opportunity to look back at the past years and reflect on the positives and the negatives.

In 2000 our Municipalities were compounded with challenges of lack of legislative framework, but now we have seen the introduction of many pieces of legislation; notices, circulars and other interventions that regulate local government.

Within this short space of time remarkable achievements have been scored which have profound positive impact on the lives of our people. The solid foundation laid by the former Mayors, Mr. Mafiri and Mrs. Mkhabela, made it possible for us to make drastic improvements. While we understand and acknowledge the positive public perception of our constituency, we are equally aware that more needs to be done.

We regard the crop of Councillors of 1995 and 2000 as pioneers of developmental local government, because it started with them. With our focus and experience sharpened we can now produce significant results. We can proudly tell a good story.

This year will herald new municipal elections and the end of local government current term of office. As we manage the transition this year, we shall consolidate the gains made by the current leadership and support the incoming leadership in their new mandate.

Sound leadership is key in putting our municipality on an even higher plane. We have to appeal to our political parties to select people with credibility and capacity to lead our municipality. It has been proven that visionary and proficient leadership can make any organization work.

### **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

Decent housing settlement promote human dignity and proper living conditions. While heartened by numerous successes in touching people's lives and improving human dignity in the past 15 years, more work still needs to be done in providing housing units to our people.

We have made good progress in distributing low-cost houses to needy people. We have provided 7 677 houses over the past 15 years and 550 housing units are to be allocated to beneficiaries in 2016/17. These are some of our people who did not have a shelter over their heads for decades. Some people have been waiting for a long time for this housing units and we are very excited that we have reduced the historic backlog.

Housing challenges in our municipality are ranging from poor workmanship, long waiting list and unfinished houses in different areas of our municipality. We have replaced numerous extremely dilapidated family houses with big and decent houses.

Amongst these selected destitute families are:

- ❖ Shabangu family at Kotsiri in Schoonoord. We built them a big house with furniture,” I have been living in this three roomed house with 23 members of my family. Am grateful and the house is beautiful”. He said.
- ❖ Leleu family at Thoto village: with 12 members squeezed in one roomed house. We built them a 7 roomed house.
- ❖ Mmotong family at Phokwane in a dilapidated thatched house. The house was replaced with big house with furniture.
- ❖ Maswaneng family at Ga-Tisane. The family was identified by Kgoshigadi Tisana. A pensioner and her grandchild living in an old half roofed thatched house. “ It is a great pleasure to receive a new tiled house, with proper running water, flush toilet and new furniture”. She alulated.
- ❖ Three needy families in Makhuduthamaga benefited from the generosity of some of our business people: Nkgadime family at Rietfontein in a badly cracked house, received a big roomed house with furniture from our former Mayor, Mr Mafiri. Ramogayane family at Vergelegen B at Jane-Furse was left homeless after their big house was burnt down. A local businessman, Mr. Peter Morena volunteered and roofed the house with tiles and replaced the window-frames. Other business people like Jane Furse builders Supply contributed with other building materials.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

Today more than 90% of our households in Makhuduthamaga have access to electricity compared to about 0,5% in 1995. The advent of Democracy in 1994brought massive electrification infrastructure growth and as such it brought huge demand on electricity supply.

Our municipality is also dealing with capacity challenges through the construction of third power station at Mamatsekele, Ga-Phaahla. The project is processing well. All 156 villages have been electrified. Our key backlogs are a number of post connections in new residential settlements like Pele-Pele Park. Priority lists for 2016/17 - 2019/20 have been sent Eskom for budgeting. This current financial year we are electrifying 14 new settlements including all villages at Leolo mountain. Eskom has also accommodated 14 areas for 2016/17. Our Municipality has put aside R7m for the electrification at Riverside/Lehwelere, Mokgapaneng and Hlalanikahle for 2016/17.

Our Municipality is also offering free basic Electricity to our indigents. The number of people that annually benefit from FBE is 9000. We are in the process of reviewing our indigent register to accommodate those that are left outside. We are putting R4m for FBE in 2016/17. The Mayor and the five local police station commanders have forged links and agreed on continuous partnership. We have embraced their request for installation of Mass lights in all crime spots areas in our municipality. The programme is going well and we have installed 18 mass lights since 2011. This current financial year we are constructing new mass lights at Mamone, Ga-Phaahla and Phokwane.

Traffic Control and congestion at Jane Furse need a lot of attention. The traffic lights at Jane Furse started operating in May 2015. In this coming financial year we will upgrade these traffic lights to three phase type of lights. We appeal to road users, in particular the mini-taxis to develop a culture of respecting and complying with our first sets of rural robots.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

It is important to mention the fact that we have made remarkable achievements in roads and bridges constructions. Our road construction performance was also commended by the Deputy Minister of COGTA, Obed Bapela, in his speech during the burial of the deputy Chairperson of the National house of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Makgeru. "Makhuduthamaga is the only local municipality in the country that has a programme of constructing tarred roads to traditional leaders" We are also rated the best in Sekhukhune District in the provision of road infrastructure. From 2011 to date, we have 78 road projects tarred, which amount to 67,2 km. Currently we are busy with 8 tarred road projects. We are putting aside R106.6m for construction of roads in 2016/17.

Our Municipality received awards and acknowledgement for quality roads and good performance of completing projects within the prescribed time-schedules. Since the inception of municipalities in 2000 our municipality has never been given an award for proper implementation of Municipal Infrastructure Grant. In April 2016, we were given R15m as an award for good performance in MIG implementation.

Since 2011 we managed to put aside an amount not less than R15m per annum for operation and maintenance. We have our maintenance plan in place, which directs operation and maintenance of our activities. We have appointed a service provider for a three year term to deal with all urgent municipal road challenges, ranging from re-gravelling, grading, and patching of potholes. We are also rated the best municipality in Sekhukhune on proper road maintenance.

We also construct Speed humps and storm water control in many of our roads. Our municipality has the highest number of speed humps in the province. This is because of the manner in which our villages are structured, with main road cutting across the villages.

In 2011 our municipality had only one grader. But currently we have 5 graders. The incoming leadership will implement our plan of establishing satellite offices for our plant to reduce the distances that our machines are travelling.

We have a serious challenge in five unfinished provincial and outstanding provincial roads in our municipality. The MEC of roads has promised that Mogaladi/Phokwane, Madibong/Maila and Masemola roads will be constructed in 2016/17. We are continuously making follow-ups with the CEO of RAL about Glen-Cowie/Malaka and Malope/Phokwane roads.

The municipal smooth roller compactor went missing during the construction of the access bridge at Ga-Maila Mapitsana. The asset got lost in July 2011, a month after our inauguration as new councilors in June 2011. A case docket was opened at Sekhukhune Police Station, but the case was closed in 2013 due to lack of evidence. The municipality then engaged a forensic investigation company in November 2013. A final investigation report was presented to the municipal Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> march 2015.

The forensic report recommended the following:

- ❖ That the criminal case be reopened and additional information obtained by the investigators be forwarded to the SAPS to assist with possible prosecution of offenders if any.
- ❖ That two officials whose names are in the report be held liable for the loss of the Roller compactor.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

We are in the mission of doubling our efforts to grow local economies. Farming is the mainstay of our municipality. The main challenge in farming is to raise the potential of emerging farmers in line with that of the established commercial farmers.

Annually we are putting R2m in our budget to assist our SMMEs. The main aim of the R2m annual allocation is to empower emerging farmers and to develop entrepreneurship and expose emerging farmers to fresh produce markets. Amongst all the projects that we assisted the following are the highlights:

Makhuduthamaga Tomato Growers Association (MTGA) has grown from emerging farmers to commercial farmers. The municipality assisted them with R400 000 00 to improve their farming activities. Currently they employed about hundred permanent employees and two hundred and fifty seasonal workers. They plough all sorts of vegetables and tomato as their main crop. They have expanded to other areas in our municipality. They now sell their products to both provincial and national markets. They are also a major shareholders to tomato processing factory (Norjax) in Tzaneen.

Maano a Basadi Dairy Project from Phokwane, produces yogurt, ice-cream and amasi. They are currently supplying Super Spar in Moratiwa and Roots in Jane Furse. The NDA has just bought them a milk fleet (delivery van). Over and above these achievements they visited Japan, Brazil and France for marketing purposes. Our municipality contributed by buying them a cold room and containers for packaging.

After realizing that Jane Furse has some feature of Marabastad and that our street traders were operating under very difficult circumstances we initiated a development of trading stalls at Jane Furse, Moratiwa and Apel Cross. We realized that street trading plays a central role in tackling poverty. We are intending to build other new different stalls in 2016/17.

Jane Furse is rapidly growing as an economic hub of our municipality. There are also other huge envisaged developments that will further boost economic activities around this key nodal point. Both the National and Provincial government have declared Jane Furse as a rural town. The Premier has established an inter ministerial committee of four MECs, the Executive Mayor and the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga to deal with this matter. Plans are at an advanced stage in accessing land for this development.

We have worked hard to ensure that we push back the frontiers of poverty through various poverty alleviation programmes such as public works programme, internship, SMMEs support and bursary scheme.

The provincial government has devolved the function of issuing business license to local municipalities. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2016 we will resume this function. We are in the process of recruiting one officials that specialize in this field. This function will assist us in regulating all these big businesses all over our municipalities without licenses.

The demarcation of new residential stands is within the armpit of our municipality. We have just appointed three service providers to perform this function. We appeal to all tradition leaders to consult our municipality when they intent to demarcate new residential sites.

We have just made a break-through at the Jane Furse RDP for a municipal park. We have completed the fencing of the area and the projected will be completed in 2016/2017 financial year.

By Law we are expected to have our own cemetery. We are in the process of acquiring land for the municipal burial site. We are putting money aside for the purchase of this land. Currently we are sitting with 41 unidentified corpses at



the St Ritas Hospital which must be buried by us. Some have been there since 2008. Kgoshi Maila and Kgoshigadi Ntobeng have volunteered to offer burial sites for these corpses. We will bury them in July 2016.

It is part of our responsibility to identify, protect, conserve and promote our heritage resources for the present and future generations. An example of this heritage activities are:

Manche Masemola. Who stood as a symbol of religious commitment for the religious communities all over the world. She was beaten to death by her mother in 1928 for refusing to give up her Anglican Church Baptism classes. Her grave at Ga-Marishane/Ga-Phaaahla became the world's pilgrimage centre since 1935. Today the gravesite of Manche Masemola is visited and celebrated by hundreds of tourists from all over the world. Her statute stands in the entrance of Westminster Abbey in London.

Mampuru day is an annual event that is held in January at Mamone Royal residence. It is attended by hundreds of people from South Africa and other parts of Africa. The Tshwane Management Area (Pretoria Central Prison ) has been named after Kgoshi Mampuru II, were many freedom fighters like Solomon Mahlangu were hanged since 1800. Kgoshi Mampuru II was hanged naked and the rope broke and was hanged again.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

Sports is a multifaceted function that is shared by all spheres of government. Local government is specifically responsible for the provision of Sport facilities. We have just completed the construction of R10m stadium at Apel Cross. The project will be handed over to the community in due course. We are closely working with other stakeholders like SAFA to ensure that sport development is on track.

Healthy lifestyle should be a way of life for people of all ages. Modern diseases like blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar are the greatest threat to human life. The World Health Organization has released frightening obesity levels in the country.

- ❖ We encourage people to have regular health checkups. We also encourage all people to keep their body fit by indulging in physical exercises such as walking, jogging, gardening and any other daily domestic work.
- ❖ We further advise and encourage people to drink lots of water, not less than two liters per day. Water purifies your blood by neutralizing acids in your blood which destroys your body system.
- ❖ We have teams of elderly women and young women who run and play soccer in their communities. We motivated them by giving them awards during our Sports Indaba in 2014.

### **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

People have the democratic right to show their concerns through protests. The negative side of community protests is when citizens run amok, barricading roads with stones and other objects and causing damage to municipal property. The Positive side of these protests is that they do point to some government challenges. Since 2000 to date we have observed a serious reduction of these protests.

The Traffic Stations of both Schoonoord and Nebo are some of our key revenue raising resources. The state of these two traffic stations is not satisfactory. There are serious allegations that need special attention. The allegations are ranging from issuing of fraudulent drivers licenses to rampant bribery within the offices and on the road. In the 2016/ 2017 financial year we are sending two officials to Johannesburg Metropolitan to learn good practices and strategies to root-out corrupt elements in the traffic department.

### **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

The following are acknowledgement of achievements through community service department:

- ❖ Miss Makhuduthamaga 2015/2016 was scooped by Miss. Ditebogo Thokwane from Vergelegen C.
- ❖ The Second Princess of Miss SA 2014 was scoped by Miss Mokoko Matlala from Ga-Masemola.
- ❖ Miss SA Heritage - International was scooped by Miss Lebo Matlala from Jane Furse.

- ❖ South Africa's top Matric Learner in 2012 was scooped by Miss Komane Madikgetho from Glen Cowie High School.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

Our Municipalities has many programmes of reaching out to communities which include among others, Imbizos, Radio Slots, School visits, HIV/AIDS campaigns, Nyaope awareness campaigns, Newsletters and distribution of blankets to the elderly.

Our Municipality will always have an interest in the education of our children. We have established a R2m Bursary Fund to assist learners from disadvantaged families to study at tertiary level. 32 beneficiaries are currently studying Medicine, Engineering and Commerce in different Institutions of higher learning. In 2014 and 2015 students from needy families were sent to Cuba to study medicine. The Mayor spoke to them and their parents during a special farewell function. We bought tracksuits for them as a source of motivation.

The Municipal Property Rates Act empowers municipalities to levy and collect property rates. We have long developed a rates policy, compiled a valuation roll and allows the rates payers to inspect the valuation roll. Our major challenge however is that we cannot collect all the projected target on our property rates. We have recruited a highly qualified and experienced legal person to deal with all the legal matters. In 2013/2014 we reduced our rates from three cent in a rand to two cent in a rand.

## **HONORABLE SPEAKER**

The success and failure of a municipality hinges on financial management. The Audit outcomes of local government are published annually by the Auditor General of South Africa. For the past ten years since 2000 our municipality has been getting Disclaimers Audit Opinion. Our main objective in 2011 was to pull all the stops and turn things around. We are happy to report that for the past four years we managed to improve our Audit Outcomes:

2011/2012 - The Municipality obtained Qualified Audit Opinion

2012/2013 - The Municipality retained the Qualified Audit Opinion

2013/2014 - The Municipality obtained Unqualified Audit Opinion

2014/2015 - The Municipality again retained the Unqualified Audit Opinion

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) awarded us two trophies in two consecutive years for achieving an outstanding Audit Opinions, Unqualified Audit reports. These awards confirm that our municipality is progressively building its reputation. Our aspiration now is to steer the municipality towards achieving a Clean Audit in the near future.

Lastly I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each and every member of our staff, that is led by our Municipal Manage Mr. Moropa for their hard work and dedication they have shown throughout to this day.

It is also proper and fitting to extend my gratitude to the Audit Committee for displaying its expertise by working tirelessly, with vengeance and efficiency in achieving our financial goals since 2000.

Our Municipal Public Accounts Committee, MPAC led by Mr. Rankwe, has also contributed immensely to both our financial and non-financial matters of our municipality and need to be congratulated.

I need to give and direct a special thank to our committed political leadership for their sterling team work and political cohesion that existed throughout the term of our office.

Finally to give an applaud to the Makaleng family, for our late Speaker of Council, who always portrait a good face of our municipality. As a municipality we once more say "Rest In Peace" Morweshadi"

*Mmogo re šomela diphetogo!*

**THANK YOU!  
RE A LEBOGA!**

This Document was published by:  
MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
Division: Communications

ENQUIRIES  
SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR  
TEL: 013 265 8600 | fax: 013 265 1975  
EMAIL: [info@makhuduthamaga.gov.za](mailto:info@makhuduthamaga.gov.za)  
WEB: [www.makhuduthamaga.gov.za](http://www.makhuduthamaga.gov.za)  
01 GROBLERSDAL ROAD, JANE FURSE, 1085  
PRIVATE BAG X434, JANE FURSE, 1085