

ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY, HIS WORSHIP CLLR MOLOKO MAEKO DURING THE PRESENTATION OF 2018/2019 BUDGET.

- Honourable Councillor Molokomme, Madam Speaker of Lephalale municipality
- Chief Whip, honourable councillor Thulare
- Chairperson of MPAC, honourable councillor Marakalala
- Chairpersons of Portfolio committees
- Leaders of opposition parties
- Traditional leaders
- Fellow councillors
- Management team of Lephalale municipality
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and let me welcome you to this important sitting of our council during the year of New dawn. The year of unity, hope, renewal and change of South Africa.

Fellow councillors and Management.

This year has been declared the year of Nelson Mandela- The year of the New Dawn. If he was alive this year, this stalwart would be turning hundred years this year. This historic fact was also acknowledged by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address on 15th February when he requested that the nation should honour Madiba by putting behind us the era of discord, disunity and disillusionment. The president said: I quote:

“We should put all the negativity that that has dogged our country behind us because a new dawn is upon us. It is a New Dawn that is inspired by our collective memory of Nelson Mandela and the changes that are unfolding.”

The budget that I am presenting here today is informed by this New Dawn and our collective intension of building a municipality that will belong to all who live in it. This intention is informed by the president's State of the nation address.

Honourable councillors and managers will note that SONA is an annual event in which the President of South Africa reports on the status of the nation, normally to the resumption of a joint sitting of Parliament (the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces). So, in short, SONA is the line of march from the president. SONA is then followed by State of the Province Address (SOPA), where the premier gives line of march to the province. Delivering his SOPA on 26 February this year, our premier requested us honour Madiba's legacy.

He said *"In memory of Nelson Mandela we must never rest never until our people are free from poverty, inequality and are enjoying equal access to opportunities."*

As Lephalale municipality we are making commitment that in deed we will never rest. The resolutions taken during our strategic session are a clear indication that we are prepared to redouble our efforts to address the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment. We have adopted an organizational structure that we believe will be equal to the task.

What is important is that every one of us should know his or her role in this institution. There should never be an overlapping of roles. Officials in administration should know that they are the implementing agents of this institution and politicians are decision makers. Politicians will from time to time take decisions and officials should implement them. That is the spirit of hash tag (#) Thumamina-Send me campaign as launched by president Ramaphosa.

The people were sending us when they voted for us and we must not disappoint them. We said "Thumamina-send me- roma nna-stuur ek" and our people responded positively.

As political leaders and administration of this municipality we must be brutally honest when scrutinizing our budget. The fact that we have spent only twenty three (23%) of our own funding is not alright.

Looking at that budget you can see that our 2018/2019 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework is 498 million rand excluding capital transfers and contributions.

We have R50 673 000 of grants funding projects and R5 850 000 of own funding projects.

One of the challenges facing our institution is that we have budget deficit of R44 million. We request management to address this as a matter of urgency. One of the ways to address that challenge is to reduce or totally avoid unauthorized expenditure.

I humbly request MPAC to intensify their oversight function and investigate, especially on why we only spent 23% of our own funding. If need be, they may also consider forensic investigation.

If we really want to get clean audit, then we must sweep our house clean
Madam Speaker and honourable councillors.

Let me remind you of few financial challenges raised by the Auditor General and emphasised by honourable premier of Limpopo Chupu Mathabatha during SOPA.

These issues include:

- The need for Municipal leadership to create a culture of honesty, ethical business practices and good governance.
- The need for proper record keeping
- The need to instil basic controls to ensure the processing of transactions in an accurate, complete and timely manner.

Although MEC of Coghsta, Azwindini Jerry Ndou mentioned our municipality among municipalities that should be congratulated for consistently getting unqualified audit opinion, my appeal is to all our officials to ensure that they adhere to the issues mentioned above so that we can move from Unqualified Audit Opinion to Clean Audit.

Let me conclude by quoting Hugh Masekela's song that was remixed by COGTA minister Zweli Mkhize at the Bolobedu Queenship celebration.

It goes:

“I want to be there when our people turn municipalities around.

Send me!

When they triumph over poverty, unemployment and inequality, I want to be there.

I want to be there when our people eliminate crime, violence and abuse of women and children.

I want to be there in the fight against HIV and AIDS, TB and cancer.

I want to be there to ensure food security and healthy lifestyle.

Thumamina! Send me!

This is a remix of Hugh Masekela’s song by Minister Zweli Mkhize.

We can only add that: “I want to be there when Lephalale gets clean audit and become a city.”

Thumamina! Send me!

I THANK YOU