

# ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR TO COUNCIL SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2017.

Madam Speaker, honourable councillors, Managers, media and members of civil society.

Today is a very sad day in the political history of our country. We meet here on the day on which the country and the world mourns the passing on of one of our political stalwarts, the icon who spent 27 years with Dr Nelson Mandela in Robben Island; Comrade Ahmed Kathrada; who has been laid to rest in the early hours of today.

This fearless liberation fighter is one of the selfless revolutionaries who joined the liberation struggle at an early age. He was only twelve years (12) when he joined Young Communist League. He chaired the Transvaal Indian Congress.

Here we are talking about a patriot who played a major role in organizing the Congress of the People in 1955. By Congress of the People I am referring to the real people's congress, where the Freedom Charter was adopted **NOT** the political party called COPE.

Comrade Kathrada was one of the 1956 Rivonia trialists.

Because of his straightforwardness and his open-mindedness, the first president of the democratic South Africa appointed him the first Parliamentary Councillor of the President. He later became the Chairperson of the Robben Island council.

His contribution in the liberation struggle of our country led to the ruling party, the African National Congress awarding him the highest ANC accolade – the Isitwalandwe Award, while in prison.

Let's observe a moment of silence before starting with the programme of the day.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE***

***May his soul rest in peace – Amen!***

## **Madam Speaker and honourable councillors**

Today's council meeting is too crucial as it takes resolutions on key issues of service delivery, namely:

- Draft Annual Budget
- Draft IDP Review ( Integrated Development Plan)
- Adjusted SDBIP(Service Delivery & Budget Implementation Plan)

As we discuss these issues today, we must bear in mind what the president pronounced during the State of the Nation Address (SONA). SONA gives the country the marching orders for the year, and our marching steps as the municipality must be informed by SONA and SOPA (State of the Province Address).

We must bear in mind that, in his SONA, the president called for "Radical Economic Transformation". This council must do introspection and look at what we are doing as a council to implement radical economic transformation locally. The president and the premier are very clear about the need to empower local SMMEs. We must then ask ourselves a collective question as local council: "What are we doing to empower local SMMEs?"

If we want to implement radical economic transformation, we must sometimes be prepared to take unpopular decisions.

We must be prepared to review our contribution to Mogol club. We must look at value for money and review that contribution to the club. If we reduce our contribution to the club, we can use that money for local SMMEs development and empowerment. By so doing we will be in line with radical economic transformation that was pronounced by the president when delivering SONA.

We must also consider reviewing our contribution to our local Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCA). The money saved from that will be used to empower our Community Police Forum (CPF). Crime is increasing in our area and CPFs are inactive because of lack of incentives.

But like I said, such radical changes need leaders who are prepared to take unpopular decisions.

## **Madam Speaker**

As we do introspection of our service delivery commitment, we must also look at councillors who are not committed to service delivery programmes. I appeal to political parties that deployed them to carefully look at Code of Conduct for Councillors in Municipal Systems Act and reprimand them. Let us take our constituencies very serious.

I THANK YOU