

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MOLOKO JACK MAEKO, AT THE MUNICIPALITY 2018 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION AT PALALA

- Madam Speaker
- The Chief Whip Cllr Thulare
- All Councillors
- Member of Provincial Legislature: Chairperson of Treasury, Soviet Lekganyane
- All Managers of Lephalale Local Municipality led by Mme EM Tukakgomo
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Receive my warmest and fraternal greetings in this year which is marked by changes in our National Parliament, changes that will better the lives of our people.

This year, we are celebrating 100 years of the birth of the liberation icons, that is Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. Our government has declared 2018 as the year of Nelson Mandela. The life and legacy of Nelson Mandela reminds us that every person has the ability to make a difference in the lives of others. Throughout his life, Mandela fought for freedom, justice, and equality for the people of South Africa. He is the embodiment of all that is good about our great nation. Nelson Mandela played a pivotal role in the country's struggle against apartheid. His stewardship of the liberation movement on Robben Island made him one of the world's acclaimed statesmen of the 20th century.

He became the global icon. In July, the nation will pay homage to Nelson Mandela and celebrations will be held nation-wide. To this end, each sector of our society has a role to play in ensuring that we protect and build our freedom. Our province has lined up a string of activities in honour of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu who would be 100 years in 2018.

Programme Director

We meet here today with a single intention of setting overall aims for the Lephalale Local Municipality and a plan to implement those aims and also agree on a way to improve the long-term performance of our municipality. As the Mayor, I believe that improved performance comes as a result from a systematic process of strategic planning like this one. This session provides us with an opportunity to look back at where we come from and focus on the accomplishments, failures and logjams we have encountered in our effort to deliver the much needed services to the people of Lephalale. This is a stock-taking session. My wish is that we use this session profitably.

Our being here today implies our commitment to rural development, provision of quality, sustainable and affordable services, financial viability and good governance, local economic development and job creation as our mission. What is crucial as leaders is that we don't lose focus on the tasks at hand that we must accomplish. We must soldier on. We must be like pilots and look ahead in the presence of turbulences. Time for excuses must come to an end and the needs for our people should be at the centre of our plans.

Local government is and will remain the implementing agent of government's transformation and delivery programs. Two parallel and mutually reinforcing roles of local government are sustainable upliftment and empowerment of local communities and the sustainable creation of an environment for economic development and opportunity. The primary vehicle for carrying out these roles is service delivery. Local government should therefore create the capacity to be able to deliver the required services.

Programme Director

I wish to emphasise our commitment to serve the people of Lephalale with humility, integrity and unwavering commitment. We can only achieve our goal if we plan and plan well. Planning contributes to the organisation's stability and growth. It helps assure that an organisation understands and remains relevant and responsive to the community it serves. It generates goals and objectives which provides the basis for monitoring progress and for assessing results and impact. It enables the organisation to look into the future in an orderly and systematic way.

Programme director

As politicians we have been voted by the people. We are not going to be judged about how good we planned and strategized, we are going to be judged by the actual improvement of the lives of the people. Administrators please help us in this regard.

Informed by our own concrete conditions and experience thus far since we took importance, I would like to emphasise the importance of proper alignment of the priorities of politicians and administrators. I insist that the most important projects we must prioritize are projects that benefit our communities. The capital budget must be spent on projects that benefit our communities. Let the priorities of politicians talk to those of administrators. Let's speak with one voice. Let us monitor the progress of their projects. I'm saying all hands on the deck!

I THANK YOU