

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS

LEADERSHIP OF THE ANC

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

LEADERSHIP OF ALL SECTORS: labour, business, sports, religious leaders, distinguished guests and all dignitaries present here today

COMRADES AND COMPATIROTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

A very good evening to you all

Honourable Speaker, let me first take this opportunity to thank all our electorate for coming out in their numbers on the 18th of May 2011 to exercise their democratic rights by making sure that they cast their votes. Let's also give credit to IEC for delivering a free and fair democratic election. Voting is one fundamental right which people must not undermine; Hon. Speaker let me congratulate all the honourable councillors for being elected to this position of responsibilities. I believe that all honourable councillors understand that leading is not a status but a responsibility to make a difference

Honourable Speaker, in his analysis of the writings of Karl Marx, Giddens has to say about one of Marx's early essays that survived his adolescent pen, titled reflection of a young man on choosing a career wherein he discusses the moral obligations and range of freedoms open to an individual who is choosing which vocation to follow in his life.

"Marx concludes,

...which must guide us in selection of a vocation is the welfare of humanity, our perfection; man's nature makes it possible for him to reach his fulfilment only by working for the perfection and welfare of his society"

Mr Speaker, the mission of the ANC led government is not far from what Karl Marx is advocating.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our glorious movement the African National Congress for having confidence on us and opt to deploy us on this huge responsibility. Since majority of our people in Emakhazeni had voted for the African

National Congress it is important that we remind one another that the mandate will therefore be from the ANC and that will be the ANC Manifesto.

Mr Speaker we are humbly accepting the deployment and we are taking this Baton not blind fodatly. We are aware of all the challenges facing us. The foundation has been laid and ours is to build on the foundation laid. We must thank our predecessor Mrs Linkie Mohlala for making sure that she provides the necessary leadership.

We are proud that our municipality under her leadership there was stability. It is through unity and cohesion that our municipality has been able to achieve so much. We are conveying our deepest appreciation to Mrs. Mohlala and her family for taking most of her family time and dedicated to the municipality. We would also like to wish Mrs. Mohlala all the best in her endeavours.

Mr. Speaker the responsibility we are given is huge. As we work for the welfare of our communities, we need to remain steadfast in our quest of addressing the legacy of our unpleasant past history while accelerating our march to the future society as envisaged by the freedom charter

Our challenges need concerted effort to deal with them. The most fundamental strategy for success is unity and cohesion. We need to step up to our responsibility as passionately committed leaders to find answers to the complex problems we face by engaging in more complex thinking.

Mr. Speaker most municipalities failed because of disunity. We are here for service delivery not politics; those of us who want to politic must go to our respective branches and come here for our mandate nothing more nothing less. We are to be a character who offers our unique story as a lens for others to better see transformation

Our mandate is to do the following;

1. Build local economy to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihood,
2. Enhancing the standard of living of the rural poor,
3. Improve local public services and broaden access to them.
4. Promote more active community participation in local government.
5. Build more united non-racial, integrated and safer communities.
6. Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with national and provincial government.

Mr. Speaker the theme of the above is "working together We Can Build Better Communities". Before the communities can embrace us, we must be united as leadership first. When the leadership is united it becomes easy for constituency to follow suit. Our challenges requires a very strong team, glancing through this

leadership one has no doubt that you are more than capable to overcome the challenges we are faced with.

Mr. Speaker our municipality is having a huge backlog on infrastructure. I think we are all aware of the fact that we are a poor municipality, many of our people depends on grants and as leadership we need to change this situation for better. We need to avoid the nice to have things in favour of service delivery. Mr Speaker we have decided that we would not be purchasing a new mayoral car because of the many challenges we have. We will be using the previous mayoral car so that we save for service delivery programme. We are aware the not buying a new car will not be taking all our challenges away but we believe that will contribute to the strategy of mobilising more resources for service delivery programmes.

Looking in all our challenges and guided by the structures act and the system act

I have therefore decided to appoint the following councillors to assist me on my responsibilities. Honourable Clr. Nomuhle Mashele as MMC for Corporate Services and Honourable Clr. B Hadebe as the MMC for Community Services and Technical Services. Since we have only two MMC's then the responsibility of finance department will be my responsibility

Mr. Speaker *I am happy* that our MMC's are no longer going to be sharing the Portfolio Committees which will make them to be more effective than before, because the legislative is now separated from executive authority. Hon. Speaker In terms of the gazette we are allocated 03 MMC's but due to the fact that we don't have enough money we decided to have 02 instead of 03 MMC's and this leave the two honourable with a huge responsibility.

Mr Speaker we are suggesting that the issue of the third MMC be addressed during the budget adjustment or in the next financial year which is 2011/2012 financial year

The vastness of our municipality requires more human capacity to be able to reach every space but understanding that we are having a very low population and that makes us not to have enough financial capacity to deal with our challenges.

Mr. Speaker we want to make a call to all our social partners to come on board in assisting the municipality to overcome its infrastructural challenges. I believe that leaders become better leaders when they experience a defining moment and respond to it correctly

We must admit our weaknesses so as to find solution to our problem very quickly because if we don't admit our challenges we will not find solutions early and that will make us to live with the challenge for a very long time. We must energise those we

lead. Bring hope to our people. We believe that we impress others when we succeed as leaders but impact others when our communities succeed. It doesn't mean that we must know everything but master the most important things.

Honourable Speaker allows me to reflect on the Municipal achievements as we are taking the button from the leadership that has put the municipality on the map. Our financial statements are now better. We have received unqualified audited reports for the past five years and we must work very hard to get a clean audited report and I am convince with the type of leadership we have that we will achieve that objective of a clean audit. The Municipality has compiled in house credible financial statements on time without failure for the past five years.

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) has been reviewed for the past five years and it was found to be credible by MEC's for Local Government and Housing as well as the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. Unit Managers were appointed in order to assist Ward councillors and ward committees to expedite service delivery.

We need to appreciate the good work that has been done so far.

Honourable Speaker much has been done but more still need to be done. We need to confront the issue of unemployment in a very radical way. We need to mobilise resources to deal with the ageing infrastructure i.e. the old roads which requires reconstruction rather that just patching. If our people are working, our revenue base grows and that can only happen when there are job opportunities for our people.

Our municipality is growing and the infrastructure is slowly losing its capacity to carry the demand and that needs to be looked at. Our economy is also growing despite the recent economic down turn. The challenge we have is that the economy is growing; but many people are still depending on grants. It should be noted by our people that such interventions by our government are for a short term basis. The spirit of VUKUZENZELE must be resuscitated by our people.

As a Municipality we will continue to ensure that assistance is given to the poor in the form of indigent support. We will continue to strengthen our relations with our communities, though various form of community participation methods, as provided for by the RSA constitution, chapter 7, section 152, sub section (b) that, one of the objects of local government is to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of local government.

Honourable Speaker, In order to ensure that the Municipality structure and manage its administration and budgeting and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community we will sign a performance contract with the Municipal Manager .

We need to mobilise more resources to deal with our challenges. One area which we must improve on is the monitoring of our human capital.

Mr. Speaker we are very proud of our past and very confident of our future. We promise not to disappoint the organisation. We are also aware of the organisational and institutional expectations. We will put our full efforts to push back the frontiers of poverty. We will be working together with our sector departments to deliver on all the services.

We commit to working together as diligent and committed servants of the people, accountable to the people and most importantly, committed to rooting out all malpractices such as, nepotism, fraud and corruption.

Special attention must also be given to Youth, Woman and the people living with disabilities.

The month of June is a youth month, in remembrance of those who laid their lives in 1976 June 16, we need to ensure that we continue to advocate for the economic emancipation of the young people in pursuit of a better life. In essence the empowerment of the youth can not be over emphasised.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker

Let me take this opportunity once more and thank my mentor Cde Lucky Ndinisa. I was groomed by Cde Lucky. There is one thing which I learn from this leader (to be selfless, principle and dedicated to the struggle)

This Leader inspires me all the time. He thought me discipline and he also give me opportunities to empower myself, for that I really want to thank comrade Lucky, because if it was not him, one was not going to be where we are today. To be recognise in such a huge position is really an honour for us.

Let me also thank all my comrades and the leadership of the ANC for supporting us thus far

I would be making a fundamental mistake if I don't thank a very special person in my life which is my wife who continuously gives me support all the time

I also think is proper to thank my entire family for giving me their undivided support

Mr Speaker

The road to success is very uphill so we should not try to break a speedy record.

President Jacob Zuma said it very clear that councillors who are not working will be removed from the system. We will be making sure that we live to the expectation of the President. We hope not to disappoint the President and the people of Emakhazeni

Working together we will build better communities

Kumyama kubomvu sizogoba

May the almighty bless all of you? Let me live u with a quotation by John Maxwell
"TO GET MAXIMUM ATTENTION, MAKE A BIG MISTAKE. TO COUSE MAXIMUM
DAMAGE, FAIL TO ADMIT IT"

I thank you