

**MAYOR'S INAUGARATION SPEECH**

**NYANDENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**30-09-2016**

Somlomo weBhunga: Obekekileyo Cllr. N. Mathanda;

Usabhokhwe weBhunga: Obekekileyo Cllr. R. Mthobela;

Candidate of the ANC for Executive Mayor of OR Tambo N. Meth;

Mayors from various sister Municipalities;

Members of the Executive Committee;

Section 79 Committee Chairpersons

Honourable Councillors;

linkokheli zomthonyama zelizwe lakowethu

linkokheli zakwalizwi

Leaders of Political Parties, particularly the ruling Party the African National Congress;

Municipal Manager: Mrs. N. Nomandela and her Team;

Chairperson of the Audit Committee and his Team;

Representatives of various sector Departments

The leadership of the Tripartite Alliance (SACP, COSATU & SANCO)

Community leaders;

Ward Committee Members, Ward Administrators and CDW's;

Leaders of Religious Denominations present;

Our invited business people;

Distinguished and special guests;

Representatives from the media;

Uluntu lwase-Nyandeni Local Municipality luphelele;

Compatriots and friends

**Ladies and gentlemen**

This is indeed a great day for the people of Nyandeni Local Municipality, where we not only sit to inaugurate the new Municipal Leadership but where we also have to look back with pride at the work already done.

This inauguration takes place during the heritage month, where we, the African people, are called upon to be proud of our heritage. This goes deeper than is actually assumed.

When we must celebrate our heritage, we must be careful not to be pigeonholed into simply celebrating African song and dance. We must deconstruct the colonial edifice which locates African life in barbarism and place ourselves in the context of the advanced civilization that we have always represented. This we must do by asserting our humanity.

We must also use this moment to reflect on the monstrosity that has become the reality of African life in South Africa. Even before we draw our first breath in our native land, our fate of poverty is already sealed. We are those who are born certain that a better life will elude us simply because of being African. We are those who have to bear the indignity of drinking water sprinkled with filth in rivers and streams because preservation of our dignity fell outside the mandate of previous oppressive governments.

It is this reality that imposes a responsibility on us not only to celebrate our heritage, but to do all we can to reverse the despicable heritage of poverty and degradation bestowed on the African people by successive colonial governments and the apartheid regime which showered our people with instruments of biological warfare, which included spreading drugs in African and coloured communities as a deterrent to the struggle against apartheid.

It is with this understanding of the deep sociological challenges that afflict the African people as the core of the oppressed in our country that we stand here to humbly accept the massive responsibility bestowed upon us by the people of Nyandeni Local Municipality, aware of its complexity and difficulty. We commit to perform this responsibility that has been bestowed upon us with diligence and dedication.

We are also grateful for the overwhelming confidence shown in us by the masses of the oppressed as demonstrated by the clear electoral outcomes. When our people voted during the elections, theirs was a vote of confidence in our unparalleled record of delivery. As an institution, we do not take the act of voting lightly. We know very well that it came at a great cost to our communities.

### **Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentleman**

In accepting this responsibility we commit to refocus the Municipality to prioritize four interrelated areas:

1. Build a responsive Municipality and an active community
2. Building and growing the local economy to create employment

3. Improve the outlook of our Municipal Towns to attract investment
4. Rollout massive infrastructure for human and economic development

We inherit an institution which has been built on the solid foundation of service delivery which was established by the unprecedented dedication shown by the previous Council in improving the daily lives of the masses of the oppressed. We too will continue, just as the last Council did in swiftly delivering services to the masses in a manner that seeks to extricate our people from the degradation heaped upon them by successive colonial regimes.

We can only do this, if we are all willing, not to repeat the work of the last Council, but to ensure that we build on its foundation to advance the pace and direction of service delivery. One of the ways in which we will achieve greater service delivery is by ensuring that we reduce the possibility of service delivery being an instrument for self-enrichment. We can only do that by reducing the extent to which we use the private sector as an instrument for the delivery of Municipal Services. We will do all we can to greatly reduce the tenderization of Municipal services. From now on, as much as we can, we will buy more plants and instruments so that we can directly as the Municipality build roads without relying on tenders.

By the way, tenders have begun to be an instrument in the hands of those that seek to enrich themselves. Thus, the primary desire of those that receive tenders is profit-making rather than delivering the actual service to the masses of our people. This is why it has been easy for some contractors to abandon their posts without completing the work for which they have been paid.

#### **Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen**

We promise to serve our communities without seeking to enrich ourselves, let alone our own families or those associated with us in one way or another. We want to make it clear to everyone here that this institution is only meant to serve the poor communities that make up our Municipality, not to help a coterie of bureaucrats with their dirty fingers plunged deep on the public purse.

We will not tolerate corruption in whatever form it presents itself. Corruption is a cancer that eats away at the very moral fibre that makes up our shattered establishments. In fact, corruption steals from the poor and must be dealt with decisively. All of us, must have an uncompromising attitude towards corruption. We must simply not tolerate it.

We built a DLTC where we expect people of Nyandeni Municipality to save money from travelling long distances seeking licenses and seeking to renew the discs on their cars. However, the risk of having a testing centre is that soon, it turns into a shop where officers sell licenses for a price. As soon as a DLTC starts being a shop, you will notice that the

majority of those who receive their licenses will soon be drawn from outside our Municipality.

We urge our communities to help us in ensuring a corruption free Municipality by swiftly and promptly reporting anyone who demands a bribe from them in exchange for a license or a learner's license. We cannot defeat this scourge that has engulfed our institution without the active participation and support of our communities. It is our communities that suffer the most from this vile behaviour that allegedly takes place. It is also them that encourage this behaviour by buying licenses instead of exposing corruption.

We commit to ensure that we fight corruption in all its forms. The tendency of those who want to do business with the state of seeking to oil the hands of officials with dirty money will be stopped in its tracks. The tendency of those who have connections to seek to secure jobs for their children using underhand means will also have to be stopped in their tracks.

We have come to conclude that some Municipal resources are often wasted on unnecessary trips that require travel and accommodation. We have also noticed that a lot of money is spent on food in meetings in the Municipality. Consequently, we will ensure that we bring an end to the unnecessary consumption of food in the Municipality and avoid catering for events when there is no need.

We will ensure that the infrastructure built by the Municipality is used in to hold meetings and avoid the use of BnB's and hotels when there is absolutely no need for all of this. When we are pressed, we will have to use BnB's within the Nyandeni Local Municipality. We will tighten our belts and avoid unnecessary expenditure of Municipal resources.

### **Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Our mandate for these coming 5 years is that of building a responsive Municipality. Our Municipality must respond to complaints by the community promptly and swiftly. No time must be wasted in responding to an issue raised by a community. We will ensure that we move with speed in attending to all matter within our jurisdiction that communities raise.

From now on, the Municipality will build mechanisms through which it can monitor faults and complaints from communities. In the same breath, we need to point out that state infrastructure has been built under difficult circumstances and government has stretched its resources. Thus, we call on communities to desist from the tendency of destroying state infrastructure in order to raise its grievances. If you destroy infrastructure like burning schools, you must know that there is no money to rebuild a school that was destroyed by you.

When communities have grievances, they must rest assured that they will find a Municipal Leadership that is more than willing to listen and to resolve them. Thus, communities must be confident in the process that the Municipality will use to attend to their complaints.

## **Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen**

The state of our Municipal Towns is appalling. Those who own shops in our towns have forgotten even their responsibility to paint their establishments. Then there are those who have decided to have their products sprawling on the streets blocking walking spaces for the masses of our people. Others have taken it upon themselves to build shacks in the Municipal Town despite our regulations being clear on this matter. Other throw card-boxes on the doorstep of their shops, right into the walkways. We say this behaviour has to come to an end.

We are committed to keeping our Municipal Towns clean and properly organized in such a manner that they attract consumption spending and are able to feed to our strategy of revamping the local economy. Those who have businesses in our Municipal Towns must show respect to these Towns and carry themselves as business people who treasure the space they have been given. We will be very firm in ensuring that we enforce compliance on this matter. We commit here, that we will ensure that our Towns are clean.

As part of our strategy to boost the local economy, we intend to build state of the art portable methods to assist hawkers to strengthen their stalls but at the same time to assist them in ensuring that they are seamlessly accommodated by the complex environment of that makes up our Municipal Towns.

Our communities are ravaged by the scourge of poverty and destitution. Our people live their lives with literally no income. Unemployment levels are sky-high. Our people live in filth. It is in this context that Municipal projects must be especially geared to uplift our people from the filth that is poverty. Our LED strategy must clearly be revamped to talk to the lived experiences that make up the fabric of African life.

We need to pay particular attention to the nascent agricultural economy that continues to co-exist with commercialized forms of economic activity. We will only succeed in building our economy if we find ways of retaining the more than R2 billion GDP that is the lifeblood of our small economy. We will only do this by ensuring and promoting local procurement.

The bulk of that which is sold in our Municipal Towns must be produced within the borders of this Municipality. We must shamelessly support local economic activity. It is only through this that we can make a telling contribution in improving the lives of our people which are crushed by the heavy-load of poverty.

To this end, we have already held meetings with various SMME's, contractors, sections of the Taxi Industry and other forms of business to understand the challenges they are facing and to carve out a method through which as an institution we can intervene to assist them from whatever challenges they are currently faced with.

We need to make it clear, that as an institution we do not intend to enrich any particular person under the guise of driving economic development. What we seek to ensure instead are collective and sustainable methods of development. We want to build a solidarity economy which will serve as a shelter from the ravages of a market driven economy. It is in this context that we will work actively to build co-operative forms of economic participation and give them preferential treatment and support.

**Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen**

We have noted that business people of Nyandeni, particularly, those in the rural areas, are struggling to compete with the foreign nationals that have flocked into the rural areas with products sold at extremely low prices. We have also noted that the business practices of some of the foreign nationals leave a lot to be desired. It is in this context that we undertake to ensure that we bring the Ministry led by Lindiwe Zulu to engage with small businesses and to assist them in whatever ways possible to compete on a sound footing.

We intend making sure that we train businesses that are unable to meeting our procurement requirements so as to ensure that they meet these requirements. Those businesses that are too expensive, we will engage them to lower their prices. Those businesses that have low standards, we will engage them to improve their standards in such a way that they meet the requirements that we require.

We have already met with the Taxi industry and expressed to them our concern about the incidence of Taxi violence and the risks it entails for the development of our economy. We are happy to announce here that the Taxi industry has assured us that it shares our concerns and will do all it can to ensure that it assists in bringing the incidence of Taxi violence to an end.

**Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen**

As we ascend to the levers of power, we inherit communities that have had to bear the scars of the indignity of sharing water with animals. The provision of water to our communities by those who have the responsibility to do so has been clearly despicable and more needs to be done to improve on this front.

As we speak, we are already in the process of massively revamping social infrastructure with the sole intention of developing our local economy, ensuring massive tourism and increasing social interaction and allowing access to healthcare and education facilities for those in far flung communities.

We have been engaged in process to improve the condition of all the roads in our Municipal Towns, including in the Townships. We will ensure that our Municipality is very quick in sorting out pot-holes in our roads before these holes turn into massive structures that threaten cars and everything else.

**Honourable Speaker, Ladies and gentlemen**

What we are saying in total is that things must not be the same. We cannot continue doing things the same way and expect different results. Our Municipality must be born anew. We must act in a totally different way.

Only then will we succeed in our affairs.

**Thank you**