

**2016 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR
OF LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY, HONOURABLE MOLOKO
MAEKO.**

- Madam Speaker
- Representatives of SALGA
- Representatives of Coghsta
- The Chief Whip Cllr. A Thulare
- The leaders of opposition Parties
- Our Traditional Leaders
- All Managers of Lephalale Local Municipalities led by Mme EM Tukakgomo
- Distinguished Guests
- Media Houses present here
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Your Majesties

1. Allow me to extend my warmest and fraternal greetings to you all.
2. We meet here today at this August occasion to witness the constitution of the new municipal council which the voters has entrusted with authority for the next year.
3. As the newly elected Mayor of this Municipality, I take this opportunity to state that I remain a humble servant of you, the people.
4. I am more than humbled by your faith and the unwavering confidence you have shown in me, to become the fourth democratically elected mayor of this great municipality.
5. I know that my election today is not a personal feat, but a call action, a call to change the lives of our people for the better.

Madam Speaker

6. Let me express my appreciation to IEC for ensuring that free and fair elections are conducted in South Africa in general and Lephalale in particular.

- Our appreciation is also extended to COGHSTA and SALGA for the guidelines developed for this transition period.
- We must also acknowledge, with appreciation, the members of community for exercising their civic duty by participating in the voting process.

Madam Speaker

- It is the will of the voters that we are constituted in this form, and that should be respected.
- This is the kind of democracy the ANC fought for.
- We should with the same agitation as during elections, roll our sleeves for quality, better and faster services. Let us together move Lephalale forward.
- We stand here to declare commitment of our municipality to translate the National Development Plan into an actual economic development plan to achieve better life for all.

Madam Speaker

We are fresh from local government elections where all political parties that are represented in this chamber raised expectations during election campaigns.

- Now that we are in the office, we are going to work together as collective political leadership of this institution to move our municipality forward.
- This council chamber will be transformed into a mental gymnasium where robust developmental debates take place with the sole aim of achieving the vision of this municipality; which is “To build a vibrant city and be the energy hub of Africa”.
- We will always regards our vision and mission statement as our starting points for strategic developmental.
- Building a city is not a small task-it requires dedication of a collective leadership, commitment of disciplined administrative leadership, partnership of private companies, participation of local communities and guidance of our traditional leaders. And as the mayor, I will strive to unite these roles – player into a collective.

Collectively we will address the following:

1. Economic Transformation

- Together we will make sure that we advance economic transformation of our area. It is time to transform the economy of our area.
- We must translate political emancipation into economic well-being for all in order to accelerate progress, deepen democracy and build a more inclusive society.
- We all have a responsibility to ensure that we achieve economic freedom in our lifetime, but we should always be informed by relevant pieces of legislation.
- We should develop an economic transformation policy which will encourage our investors to partner with our previously disadvantaged local companies within 60 days from now.
- We will always create conducive environment for investors in our area.
- To achieve our job creation mission we will encourage all companies doing business in Lephalale to employ 60% of their workforce here in Lephalale with general workers and semi-skilled we need 100% and it is not negotiable.

2. Education and Skill development

- It is important to note that economic freedom goes hand in hand with education. We should align the economic growth of our area with education and skills development.
- We have to lobby the Provincial government to consider having not less than two technical high schools in our municipality, our youth need to possess appropriate skills
- We need qualified engineers and artisans in order to have better opportunities for sustainable jobs
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3. Integrated Human Settlement

- The will make sure that our planning capacity is guided by the development taking place in our area
- We have to aggressively address the human settlement needs. We have started with the installation of infrastructure at Joe Slovo Integrated Human Settlement and hope to create a new settlement together with the relevant stakeholders within a year or two.

4. Accountability of Councillors

- The people have spoken through voting on the third of August, us is to deliver services to them as we promised.
- From today we will work together as councillors and deliver services to all members of community without taking political affiliation into account.
- Our councillors will also strengthen healthy working relationship with traditional leaders and all stakeholders.
- Our councillors will account to their constituencies as required by legislations and as the political head, the mayor will oversee and monitor.

5. Clean Governance

- I must start by acknowledging with appreciation the progress which has achieved unqualified audit opinion and we thank the previous council for setting that standard for us and we will do our best to get clean audit opinion in our term of office.
- Municipal Manager thank you for filling almost all positions of executive managers. Our recruitment strategy will always be informed by our developmental goal.
- We will recruit people based on capacity, qualifications, and experience not be influenced by tribalism, nepotism and political affiliation

The work to create that vibrant city has began

- We should strive for clean and accountable administration
- We should reject corruption and mismanagement.
- As we speak today, we have achieved more than 90% access to water and electricity in our communities.
- We have to achieve 100% electrification in this term.
- We should also move swiftly to pre-paid electricity to relieve the residents in town and Onverwacht of high tariffs they are paying currently.
- The work to create that vibrant city has begun. At this hour of destiny, your municipality and your people need you.

The future is in your hands

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN ADVANCE PEOPLE'S POWER IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

I THANK YOU