

**Speech delivered by the Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr. Moloko Jack Maeko on the occasion of the 1st Council Meeting in the year 2018(25 January), Lephalale Municipal Council Chambers.**

- Madam Speaker of the Council
- Members of the Executive Committee and Chairpersons of Council Committees
- Opposition Parties and in particular, the Leader of the Opposition in this Council
- All Councilors and members of Ward Committees
- Majesties, Traditional Leaders and esteemed Stake Stakeholders
- Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Senior Management and all employees of this municipality

Receive my warmest and fraternal greetings in the year. I would like to thank you for having preserved your lives and wish you a Happy and prosperous New Year.

I wish to start by appreciating the efforts of all Grade 12 learners who sat for the Matric Final Examinations last year. We congratulate those who have achieved and wish them well in the endeavors to enhance their opportunities in life. May God grant them the strength and courage to fulfill their desires and reach new heights in their personal lives? Our sympathies go with those that couldn't find joy in their results. We hope that they will have the courage to view this temporary setback as a stepping stone to greater achievements. We encourage them to learn from the sagacious former President of the Republic, Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela, who announced that "it is not how many times get knocked down that count, it's how many times you get back up".

We will as usual have a special ceremony with our partners to honour schools and learners that raised their names to be counted. We congratulate Waterberg District for having obtained position 2 in the overall Provincial performance. Very recently, the district was the last best in the province. We marvel at this awesome performance and encourage the schools in the district to strive to achieve above the national average.

The ruling party, the African National Congress, had a successful 54th National Conference in December 2017. The former Deputy President, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa was elected President of the ANC. We congratulate him together with the collective elected to have five years of progress and service to the people of South Africa. The ruling party aims to use this period to rebuild, renew people's confidence, unite South Africa and pursue a path of prosperity. At the centre of this should be the redistribution of the wealth of the country within a framework of

inclusive socio-economic growth. This would be pursued in a manner consonant with our objectives - to build one united, non-racial, non-sexist, peaceful and prosperous South Africa. We are careful not to set our racial groups one against the other or carelessly upset and rattle our economy.

We are going to use this year to celebrate the centenary birthdays of our stalwarts, Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. They differently showed extra-ordinary activism and selflessly contributed to the success of South Africa and put it among the best in the world. The enviable reverence of President Mandela globally is a testimony of life dedicated to loyal service for the upliftment of the poor and the realization of ideals of peace, equality, justice and freedom for all.

There is no other better and justified ways to honour these icons than to pursue the dream of a better life for the poor. This is the dream for which they lived, a dream for which they were harassed and tortured, and a dream they carried to their graves.

Our municipality has done tremendously well in the last four years. We have achieved unqualified audit opinions for three consecutive years. We want to thank the administration for its diligence and professionalism. We, in the same vein congratulate our councilors for their incisiveness, agility and vigilance. We should be intolerant to lapse of professional standards and frown at any tendency that seeks to soil or undermine the reputation we have so hard built. Let us continue to work as a unit for the people of this municipality. We are their last hope. Together we can do more!

We call on our administration to focus and subordinate itself to the interests of the people of this municipality and the strategic mission and vision of this municipality. No amount of deviation or accentuation of personal interests above those of the institution will be allowed. Council committees should remain vigilant and diligently study all the reports in order to make appropriate recommendations before this Council.

We should continue to give the people of this municipality prudent governance and comply with all the basic principles and values of public administration.

Rebuild, Renew, Unite and Create Jobs!

Amandla!