

ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR DURING THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017

**Madam Speaker
Honourable Councillors
Local Media
Our Traditional Leaders
Managers**

We have assembled here just few weeks after celebrating 105 years of the existence of the African National Congress (ANC) as a liberation movement.

The African National Congress (ANC) led government will continue to pursue the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) with the strategic goal of putting in place a united, non-racial, non-sexist democratic and prosperous South Africa, and we call upon all citizens to contribute on uniting our people around the strategy and tactics required to attain our goals.

We must have unity of purpose and display unity in action in advancing the NDR.

Our Municipality must concentrate on radical economic transformation and ensure that the people become more prosperous. We have a resolutions duty to eradicate poverty, address joblessness and fight inequality. In partnership of private companies we must grow and create jobs for our people.

We must use the state power to transform the economy and improve the lives of our people. It is our duty to use government procurement, infrastructure investment and other measures to create new industries and expand existing ones, by doing so will increase ownership of the economy by the black majority. We must use black industrialists programme to develop township and rural economies and to create jobs for our people.

We call upon on our young, black people with disability and female entrepreneurs to take advantage of all our programmes or initiatives to help turn Lephalale into a bustling hub of industrialization and manufacturing. We must boldly turn our municipality into a construction site.

In conclusion

Allow me **Madam Speaker** to take this opportunity and welcome honourable councillors, managers and staff members; the mighty God of mount Zion has protected us throughout the festive season and we are happy that we are all back safe.

Let me acknowledge with appreciation councillor and officials who joined the Mayor and the MEC of Health to hospitals on a New Year day to celebrate and give presents to new born babies.

Madam Speaker

Honourable Councillors and Managers

Let's go all out this year and champion the Back to Basics approach.

- Putting people first (Respond to people's concerns)

- Ensuring delivery of basic services – appointment of service providers on time and spending all MIG funds including our own funds.
- Good governance – councillors must be accessible to the community and hold regular reporting and feedback meeting, and officials must report work on time. People takes responsibility for their own development, ANC led government reaffirm the support to traditional leaders as an instrument of unity and an agent of change within our constitutional democracy.
- Sound Financial Management – continuing put in place programmes to fight corruption and promote ethics throughout the public service. We must deal with corruption decisively wherever may occur including in the private sectors. Let us unite and encourage our people to pay services they received from the municipality.
- Building a strong - institution work with the investors to continue to be custodians of the principles of fundamental social change; informed by the values of honesty, hard work, humility, service to the people and respect of the law of the land.

Let us build and deepen unity

I thank you!

Moloko wa Maeko

Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality