
**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
WATERBERG, HER WORSHIP Cllr NR MOGOTLANA
DISTRICT DURING THE FIRST SITTING OF THE
COUNCIL.**

- Hounarable Speaker
- Former Executive Mayor
- Distinguished Mayors and Speakers of our local municipalities.
- Hounarable councilors
- Leadership of sectors – Labour, Business, Sports and faith based institutions.
- Media houses
- Fellow South Africans

Good afternoon !

Honourable Speaker, let me preamble my speech by repeating the declaration made by the president of the country, His Excellency Jacob Zuma during his State of the Nation Address delivered at the joint sitting of parliament in Cape Town on 10th February 2011. The president declared 2011 a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth.

Colleagues should remember that the State of the Nation Address is the national line of March. So, this declaration by the president is a clear road map to 2011 service delivery road. Following the president's marching orders, the Premier of Limpopo province, His Worship Cassel Mathale presented his State of the Province Address on 18th February 2011 under the theme: "2011 a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth."

Honourable Speaker and honourable members, allow me therefore to officially confirm that Waterberg District will also strive to ensure that 2011 is in deed a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth.

Honourable members, We are fresh from one of the elections that were internationally declared free and fair; the fourth local government election of our democratic South Africa. We have demonstrated to the world that our country leads the way in conducting the democratic elections. I must take this opportunity and praise the people of Waterberg District for political tolerance they displayed during the run-up to the elections. There might have been minor skirmishes here and there; but they were minor. Our IEC was on top of the situation. The media houses were also very informative. No serious negative reporting was done. And for that we take a bow to our local media. Let me take this moment and acknowledge and appreciate the role and participation of our official opposition and other parties. Their presence in this council makes our democracy very vibrant.

The composition of our council reminds me of what Chief Albert Luthuli wrote in his autobiography, *Let My People Go*. This visionary chief; the eighth president of the African National Congress; the first African to receive the Nobel Peace Prize Award; wrote the following about South Africa in his autobiography: **I quote**

“There will be enormous, peaceful change in South Africa before the end of this century. People of all races will eventually live together in harmony because no one, White, Black or Brown, wants to destroy this beautiful land of ours. It is my firm belief that it is the duty of all right-thinking people, Black and White, who have the true interest of our country at heart, to strive for this without flinching.”

Chief Luthuli was hundred percent correct. In deed we are living together in harmony across the colour line. In deed none of us wants to destroy this beautiful land of ours. In deed we all have the true interest of our country at heart. What is expected of us is to work together for the prosperity of South Africa in general and Waterberg in particular. Each of us has a role to play, and if each play his/her role, surely we will fly the flag of Waterberg high.

I vividly recall what the outgoing Executive Mayor of Waterberg District, L.E.P Gwangwa said during his inaugural ceremony. Emphasizing the need to double our efforts in our quest to meet service delivery goals, comrade Gwangwa said, **I quote** *“Footprints in the lad of lime are not made sitting down.”*

You left your foot prints, honourable Gwangwa, and we will ensure that those footprints do not fade away. Please keep your political door open for us whenever we knock seeking advices. We won't sit down! People are waiting for services and we are aware that service delivery is our core function.

We have not forgotten the five priorities that we decided to focus on from 2009. These are: Education, Health, Rural Development and agrarian reform, taking forward the fight against crime and creating decent jobs.

With these priorities in mind, our government has introduced the New Growth Path to guide our action as we strive to attain these goals. **WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE.**

We are aware that Waterberg is a popular tourist destination area. The magic waterfalls of Bela Bela is offers a refreshing zone for tourists; the petro-chemical cluster at Lephalale as well as the iron mines at Thabazimbi are dream destinations for any serious eco-tourists. The historic caves and valleys at Mokopane in Mogalakwena are cradles of our rich history. The list of tourist destinations is endless. Ours is just to preserve this heritage. Tourism is one area that will assist us as we move forward in placing job creation high on our agenda.

We will continue to offer our previously disadvantaged sectors of our community – Youth, Disabled and Women – preference as we strive for creation of decent jobs for all. This we shall do in line with government's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme , National Rural Youth Service Corps programme and other programmes which our government developed .

Honourable Speaker and Compatriots, this sitting takes place during our National Youth Month, June. 2011 marks the 35th anniversary of the 1976 students' riots which culminated in a new epoch in the struggle for liberation of our beloved country.

We are pleased that the National Youth Development Agency has developed a programme of action for 2011 under the theme : “ **Youth Action for Economic Freedom in Our Lifetime**” in line with government focus for the year, which is job creation. As

Waterberg we will obviously have several programmes which link up to this theme.

Honourable Speaker, Compatriots and Fellow countrymen, it is now a common knowledge that HIV/AIDS has declared war against humanity and we should hit back. Our government has launched the voluntary HIV testing campaign last April and we have a duty to take the campaign forward in our District. We all know that the Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi and the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa visited Medupi power station early this year to launch this life saving programme in our District. So, let us take this voluntary HIV testing serious please honourable members.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker to conclude by quoting what our beloved former president, who is also the icon of the world, Nelson Mandela said during his inauguration address in 1994. **I quote:**

“We know it very well, that none of us acting alone can achieve success. We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for national building and for the birth of a new world.”

I THANK YOU

NR MOGOTLANE

Executive Mayor - Waterberg District