

PUBLIC UNVEILING OF THE NEW COUNCIL ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE, CLR RENIAS KHUMALO, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AT GREENVALLEY SPORTS FIELD

10 JUNE 2011

Programme Director, Former Executive Mayor, Speaker of the Council, Chief Whip, MMC's, Honourable Councillors, Acting Municipal Manager, Directors, Managers, Municipal Employees, Traditional Leaders, Pastors, Civic Movements, Sector departments, Traditional Healers, Disability Organizations, NGO's, Ward Committees, CDF's, Private sectors, Parastatals, Business people, Political parties, Comrades, Friends, Compatriots, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

Dumelang

Avuxeni

Sanibonani

Good morning

Goeie more

Fellow South Africans, before we start our business of the day, allow me to kindly request you to stand-up to observe a moment of silence in respect of the passing of Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu, a black South African anti apartheid activist who passed on 2 June 2011 in her home , Lindeni, Johannesburg aged 92.

(A moment of silence)

Thank you, and may her soul rest in peace.

I speak before you today 8 days after the passing on of one of the greatest mothers the African National Congress (ANC) has ever produced. Mrs Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu otherwise known as Ma Sisulu throughout her lifetime by the South African public has played a pivotal role in the struggle against apartheid; it is no surprise that due to her leadership qualities and maternal instincts she was referred to as the "Mother of the nation". She and her husband Walter Sisulu have served the African National Congress with distinctions "may the souls of this two great people rest in peace".

During the inaugural ceremony of the new Council on 01 June 2011 at the Council Chamber, I said in my acceptance speech that "in order to make local government

work better for our people, we need committed and dedicated men and women who will always be hard at work on daily basis". I continued to say "working together irrespective of our Political affiliations, we can rescue our people from the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment caused by the apartheid government".

We are gathered here today fellow South Africans to show you the public who your Councillors are. These Councilors have taken oath last week during the swearing in of the new Council that they will serve you the people of Bushbuckridge without compromise and with dedication. These Councillors have taken oaths that they want to see a continuation of service delivery that is left in our hands by the previous Council. The previous Council has done wonders to this municipality. Under the tutelage of the former Executive Mayor, Comrade Milton Morema, the municipality has in a 10 year period managed to move from a Grade 1 to Grade 4 municipality. Under the leadership of comrade Milton Morema as the Executive Mayor, the municipality has managed to move from disclaimer Audit Opinion reports to unqualified Audit Opinion reports by the Auditor-General. There have been quite a lot of developments in Bushbuckridge since the year 2000.

Fellow South Africans, I feel honoured to have been unanimously elected by the honourable Council to be the political head of this institution and thus wear the Executive Mayor Cap. It is undoubtedly a great honour for me to be tasked with this humongous responsibility of ensuring that the resources of the municipality are distributed fairly in a manner that meets the needs of community members.

As alluded above, the former Mayor Comrade Milton Morema whom I will always be indebted to has laid a solid basis and foundation to ensure that we move forward and create a municipality of prosperity and opportunities for all. In this context, I therefore take this opportunity to thank comrade Milton Morema for a sterling job and significant advances he made in building Bushbuckridge local municipality to be where it is today. Developments are there for everyone to see.

Prior to the elections, we went to all villages in Bushbuckridge to ascertain challenges that are confronting you and to motivate you to go to the polls, to exercise your democratic rights of voting for the government of the day with manifestos which were informed by the vision of the freedom Charter. Let me thank you first and foremost for participating on the 18th of May 2011, you have voted, you have exercised your democratic rights and your voices I believe have been heard.

Your votes have again put the African National Congress in the driver's seat of the municipality. This means that you believe in the African National Congress that based on our policy documents: we are the only party qualifying to run the South African government. Even the prophets of doom can agree with us that ANC led government has done wonders in the country and in Bushbuckridge. However we still have to do much in terms of developing our communities.

In his state of the Nation Address 2009, President Jacob Zuma alluded that the fight against poverty remains the corner stone of our government's focus. I quote: “

- For as long as there are South Africans who die from preventable disease,
- For as long as there are workers who struggle to feed their families and who battle to find work
- For as long as there are communities without clean water, decent shelter or proper sanitation
- For as long as there are rural dwellers unable to make a decent living from the land on which they live.
- For as long as there are women who are subjected to discrimination, exploitation or abuse
- For as long as there are children who do not have the means nor the opportunity to receive a decent education,

We shall not rest, and we dare not falter, in our drive to eradicate poverty. In pursuit of these goals our government has identified 10 priority areas, which form part of our Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2009 to 2014.

Fellow Bushbuckridgeans, when we visited you prior the 18th May local government elections, ours was not only to request you to vote, but to also take stock of the challenges you our people are facing. It is against this background that as an intervention to some of our problems, Council believes that working together we will:

- Build more local economies to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods
- Improve local public services and broaden access to them
- Build more active community participation in local government
- Build more united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities
- Ensure more effective, accessible and clean local government that work together with provincial and national government together we can do more.

I wish to make a clarion call to the business sector to plough back to the communities of Bushbuckridge. Bushbuckridge municipality need your contribution, for there is a role that you can play in the fight against poverty and unemployment, we should note that the society without economic freedom will never be a prosperous society. We have won against apartheid, we have gained the political freedom, but we have not gained the economic freedom. Our government tries its best to create jobs, but the business sector must play a role also hence the ANC led government believes that working together we can do more.

Fellow South Africans, today we present to you your democratically elected Councillors, whom you have put your trust upon their shoulders. I want you to know that these Councillors are ready to serve you that you have a right not a privilege to enquire about any service delivery related activity with them. You have a right to see your ward Councillor and lodge your complain with them.

To ensure that there is effective two way communication between the municipality and you the electorate. The municipality has in all the regional offices and head office placed suggestion boxes to afford you the opportunity to complain, the municipality's website and newsletters including posters will be used to communicate with you, but most importantly, the Executive Mayor will conduct quite a number of izimbizo or public participation programmes to speak with you directly.

This Council is here to serve you, and this Council has noted that one of our biggest challenges is the issue of water in Bushbuckridge. We are happy to announce that the Inyaka-Acornhoek bulk line is almost complete, this is a project undertaken by the provincial department of water Affairs. The project will cost government almost R160 million to complete. It is the Inyaka –Acornhoek bulk line that will save us from all this water problems in Bushbuckridge as a whole.

We have taken stock of some of the problems that this ward (18) is experiencing and just like many other wards in Bushbuckridge. This ward is experiencing shortage of water, boreholes are not working, poor internal streets, some roads need refilling, and grader is needed. Let me assure you that as soon as we leave here, the office of the Executive Mayor will engage the Director for Municipal works to ensure that our internal streets are fixed and graded.

The office of the Executive Mayor will engage the Director for water services to see to it that boreholes are fixed and make sure that water tankers are made available as well.

Mmogo re ka dira kgontsi

Hi ku tirhisana swin'we hinga endla swo tala

Singenza okuningi ngoku sebenzisana

Together we can do more

Bushbuckridge local municipality is a nodal presidential point. It is therefore important to note that irrespective of our municipality been a rural one, efforts are made to create a better Bushbuckridge. Our municipality cannot be compared to the Metros who generate billions of rands in revenue; we do not have mines like other municipalities do. We are a rural municipality that does not even have a town. Nevertheless we are not sitting on our laurels.

Hiya emahlweni hi tirha

Re tswela pele re soma

Siya phambili si sebenza

Just a month ago we just launched the phase one of the Urban renewal project in Bushbuckridge, the project is continuing and this is developments in the right direction indeed. We now have a Grade A testing centre in the form of Mapulaneng DLTC. This centre is for the communities of Bushbuckridge to access more services, such as

- Testing of motor bikes
- Code 14 trucks
- Vehicle inspections
- Learners, and
- Driving test and many other services associated to Grade A testing centres.

Fellow South Africans, I speak before you here today six days before the 35th June 16 youth commemoration. Allow me salute all who suffered and died for this democracy. As we thread the ground slowly to June 16, let me remind you the youth of Bushbuckridge what the day is all about. This is not just a holiday, but a day that which reminds us of the young lions who where sick and tired of the apartheid education systems.

They took to the streets their fight against the apartheid oppressive educational system that which promoted Afrikaans at the expense of other languages. The Afrikaner led government knew that to impose one's culture in to someone, language will be critical, hence they made sure that Afrikaans occupied a special place in the running of government affairs. During the 1976 protests, the police opened up fire that left some dead including Hector Petersen who became the first to be killed.

The aftermath of the 1976 Soweto uprising left many wounded physically and psychologically and some are even today not known in terms of their whereabouts. This is how cruel the apartheid government was; realising that Africans were suffering at the hands of the white minority in South Africa. God did as he did during the time of Moses. In Exodus 3:7 I quote

“And the Lord said: I have surely seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites”. Just like God commanded Moses to go to Egypt and free his people, so did God do with the ANC. God mandated the ANC to free people from the chains of slavery, from the chains of apartheid.

And yes, just like God did with the Pharaohs, so did God do with the apartheid government, and now we are free. The ANC has taken you away from the Egyptian oppression imposed by king Pharaoh, the ANC, my ANC, your ANC, our ANC has

freed us from the chains of oppression. Bryan Fulks in his book titled “Black Struggle, a history of the Negro in America” document it well by saying; I quote “the Black American’s battle for freedom today has its roots in centuries of injustices in Africa” as we celebrate this youth month, it is important to note that as much as it reminds us of the cruelties of slavery, the humiliation of segregation, and the imprisonment of our leaders, it is also a story of heroism. Therefore, to the youth of Bushbuckridge take charge of your lives. You are the future leaders, Doctors, Lawyers and so forth. Bushbuckridge municipality strives for a developmental and prosperous life for all, and it will not be a prosperous life for our youth if you do not fight HIV,AIDS. If you do not fight crime, if you do not fight poverty, if you do not fight unemployment.

The government is here, so are government parastatals such as SEDA, MEGA who are all waiting for your business ideas so you can start your own business. The municipality also under LED is well resourced to give you SMME’s advices on how to kick start your business. I agree that to a large scale, it is the responsibility of government to create jobs, but we the people are the government so we must assist the government to achieve some of these goals.

The Minister of finance, Honourable Mr Pravin Gorhdan, pronounced few days ago that the government has set aside R9 billions to assist in job creation. We believe that this allocation will help in lessening the unemployment rate in South Africa. In Bushbuckridge, we are also playing our part of creating jobs, to date a considerable number is employed on the indalo yethu cleaning programme, some are working on the urban renewal projects. Therefore we continue to use ingudu lashu to create job opportunities for the people of Bushbuckridge.

Mmogo re ka dira kgontshi

Hiku tithisana swin’we hinga endla swo tala

Sisonke singenza okuningi

Together we can do more

Fellow South Africans let me conclude by saying we take education very seriously, I challenge our youth who are still at school to work hard, for to live like a King/Queen, you must work like a slave. In the municipality we have a bursary scheme for academically deserving matriculants who come from poor family backgrounds. I call upon all of you Grade 12 learners to utilise opportunities afforded to you by the municipality, the office of the Director: Community Services will be waiting for your applications for bursaries from September – October 2011, but remember the bursary is for academically deserving learners who come from poor family backgrounds.

Fellow South Africans, in a quest to ensure the smooth running of service delivery to communities. The following Councillors will discharge their duties on a full time basis to the municipal Council as members of the Mayoral Committee.

1. Clr Sasekani Manzini – Sports, Arts ,Culture & heritage
2. Clr Enas Selowe – Personnel, Administration & Traffic
3. Clr Follas Sibuyi – Finance, Supply Chain, LED, planning & Environment
4. Clr Flomina Ntomba – Social Services
5. Clr Boikie Mokoena – Municipal Works

This is a winning team which is supposed to consolidate people’s power in order to create a better life for all people. Working together we can do more to build an administration that embraces and promotes Batho Pele and understands the core mandate of public service.

Ke a leboga

Inkomu

Ngiya bonga

I thank you