

ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, HON. TD BUTHELEZI DURING HIS INAUGURATION, 08 October 2016

Program Director;
Honourable Speaker, Councillor Mmota;
Honourable Whip of Council; Councillor Blessing Modisane;
Honourable Councillors;
Motlotlegi Kgosi Matlaba le Kotla-tsamaiso la Morafe;
The Leadership of the African National Congress;
Representatives of various political parties present;
Members of the religious movements;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Re kopane mo letsatsing la gompiano mo kgotleng ya Barolong Boo-Rrapulana go keteka mmogo le baagi ba rona ditholwana tsa diragatso ya kgololosego jaaka e sitlhamolotswe mo molaotheong wa Aferika Borwa.

Se re leng mo go sona mo letsatsing leno ga ese fela keteko ya tlhomo ya ketapele ee tlhopilweng go ya ka mokgwa wa demokrasi ke gape sesupo sa gore baagi ba rona ba Ditsobotla ba santse ba na le tsepho mo mokgathong wa *African National Congress* go ka fetola matshelo a bona le go itlhaganedisa ditirelo.

Re leboga baagi ba rona ka kakaretso go tswa maphateng otlhe a sepolotiki, sedumedi, le loago gore babo ba tshotse karolo mo

ditlhopong tsa dipuso-selegae tse di tshwerweng mo malobeng le go bontsha tshepo mo ketapeleng e eleng fa gompiono.

Motsamaisa-tiro, ke eme mo pele ga setshaba se ke ikokobeditse go thadisa ka bokhutshwane maikaelelo, diphitlhello le dikgwetlho tse re di itemogelang mo maitekong a rona a go tlisa ditirelo mo baaging.

The daunting task ahead of us can only be achieved through partnership with our communities and all stakeholders. We remain buoyed by the overwhelming support and confidence you have shown in the African National Congress to continue with a radical programme for the socio-economic development of our communities.

Programme Director,

The provision of household infrastructure such as electricity, water and sanitation remains a non-negotiable human rights issue for Ditsobotla Local Municipality.

In this regard significant progress has been made in connecting the majority of our households to the electricity grid to which I can proudly announce that we have almost achieved universal access status. The only challenge we are faced with is connecting infill households which arise due to new residential developments in various areas where we have electricity infrastructure. The municipality is working closely with Eskom in this regard through the development of annual electrification plans.

We also have a constitutional responsibility to create a safe environment where our communities reside and have to this end implemented various public lighting projects as part of curbing criminal activities and affording our residents the confidence to continue with their social and economic activities at night without any fear nor hindrance.

As part of my hundred days in office the municipality will energise the Tlhabologang Highmast lights and have for this purpose set aside an amount three million rand (R3 million). We have also set aside R500 000 for the maintenance of highmast lights in Verdwaal, Bodibe, Springbokpan, Itsoseng and Ga-Motlatla.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ditsobotla Local Municipality, like all other municipalities within South Africa, is the hardest hit by drought which affects residents and businesses, particularly commercial farmers and the manufacturing industries. This challenge coupled by acts of lawlessness involving theft and vandalism of infrastructure have had a negative impact on the lives of our communities.

In response to this challenge we have moved swiftly to avert potential job losses associated with a water crisis in Lichtenburg by committing a total of five hundred and fifty thousand rand (R550 000) towards bulk-water augmentation and resuscitation of malfunctioning boreholes. We remain confident through this effort that we will retain *Clover* as one of our biggest investors while saving hundreds of jobs.

In partnership with the district municipality and *Sedibeng Water* we are making significant inroads in addressing the challenges of water provision in Itsoseng and Bodibe while putting in place provisional measures to ensure that our people have continued water supply. We will indeed not rest until this challenge is addressed fully.

Municipalities have a responsibility of ensuring community access to social amenities such as health clinics and centres of economic activities by providing the necessary infrastructure that links them to such services. Quality road infrastructure is primarily important in the promotion of economic growth as it impacts on the municipality's ability to retain and/or attract investors.

Equally, mitigation against potential disasters arising from climate change such as floods has prompted a need for investment in storm-water drainage facilities to curb loss of human life and property arising from this natural phenomenon. This approach is particularly important in the case of villages which through history were built outside the bounds of formal township establishment processes and are thus prone to flooding during rainy seasons.

As part of our medium term (three year) capital investment programme we have prioritised the following areas for the implementation of various roads and storm-water projects:

- Bodibe Roads and Storm-water to the tune of R15m;
- Tlhabologang Roads and Storm-water to the tune of R16,7m;
- Itsoseng Roads and Storm-water to the tune of R22,8m.

- Boikhutso Roads and Storm-water worth R12,6m.

Program Director,

As an additional response to these important considerations, and as part of our social contract to develop the economic infrastructure for job creation, we are currently busy with the resealing of Nelson Mandela Drive in Lichtenburg to the tune of two million rand (R2 million). This recapitalisation project is crucial in boosting local investor confidence and the regeneration of the central business district which is a pivotal centre of employment to the majority of our people.

Inspired by the VTSD approach the municipality has also shifted its focus to providing targeted service delivery and infrastructure provision to villages, townships and small dorpias. In this regard we have put aside half a million rand (R500 000) to build basic access roads in Tlhabologang Extension 8, Boikhutso Extension 3, Springbokpan and Bodibe villages.

Some of these projects have already commenced and will be completed by end of November as part of my hundred days programme.

In line with our social contract to develop and strengthen local economies, create jobs and promote job placements, especially for youth¹, Ditsobotla Local Municipality has undertaken and partnered with

¹ African National Congress Local Government Manifesto 2016

other stakeholders in developing and supporting various income generating initiatives for our communities.

We remain committed to fast-tracking the inclusion of emerging entrepreneurs into the main stream economy. In this instance the municipality will support emerging farmers by making available, through a targeted preferential procurement approach, in excess of 640 hectares of arable land for crop production on a lease basis that will endure for a period of five years. We will also engage the Department of Agriculture to ensure the provision of technical support to beneficiaries of this programme.

In partnership with the Department of Social Development we have succeeded in supporting two agricultural cooperatives, Tshireletso and Tem City, by making available, on a lease basis, a two land parcels for vegetable production and piggery projects in pursuit of contributing to food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Supported by the national department for small businesses we have also rolled out the SMME support and incubation programme also targeted at emerging businesses within the VTSD approach. In this regard we have succeeded in providing tools of trade to fifteen (15) small medium micro enterprises. The same SMMEs have also received capacity building programme on how to manage their businesses focusing on finance management and business planning.

Through the implementation of the Extended Public Works Programme, a programme which is primarily aimed *at* providing poverty and income

relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities, we were able to employ in excess of 200 community members in the past two year with the current number of those employed under this programme standing at forty-three (43).

In addition to these initiative our young people have benefited from the Community Works Programme, which is aimed at expanding the job safety net for people of working age, improving the quality of life of the marginalised economic areas by providing work experience, enhancing dignity and promoting social and economic inclusion.

I have also instructed administration to consider a labour intensive approach in implementing cleaning campaigns in various areas of the municipality commencing with Boikhutso, Blydeville, Itsoseng and Tlhabologang and have set aside a budget of two hundred thousand rand (R200 000) for this project. In this way the municipality will provide much sought relief to the unemployed masses of our local communities, particularly those that are indigent.

Program Director,

Under this newly elected leadership we commit to making sure that a significant percentage of the municipal procurement is targeted towards the advancement of local contractors. In the context of our villages all capital projects within the maximum threshold of R500 000 and to which the requisite capacities are readily available within the benefiting community, local contractors should be considered for such projects within the legal prescripts governing supply chain management

processes. This should be a starting point in our contribution to a sustainable, integrated, competitive and inclusive rural economy that fully benefit local communities over a long-term period.

I therefore commit the municipal administration to ensure that the projects for the fencing and construction of ablution blocks of cemeteries planned for Ga-Motlatla and Springbokpan villages in the current financial year to the value of five hundred thousand (R500 000) each, are implemented in a manner that gives effect to this commitment in support of the VTSD planning approach. The preferential approach must be implemented in such a way that the necessary capacity is provided where required to ensure value for money and quality in the undertaking of such projects.

Motsamaisa-tiro re a dumela gore ka leano la rona la go agela dirapa tsa baswi magora le matlo-boithusetso e bile re dirisa dikonteraka tsa selegae ga re diragatse fela tlotlo go ba ba re tlogetseng mme re lwantsha lehuma le tlala ka go godisa ekonomi ya metse-magae. Re tsenya gape mo tirisong leano la puso ya porofense la go tllabolola metse-selegae ya rona go nna metswedi ya kgolo ya setšhaba.

In line with our commitment towards upgrading and integrating informal settlements within the municipal area a process of establishing a formal township in Tlhabologang Extension 8 which will be home to more than 1 800 residents is underway. We have already communicated with Eskom to include this development in their electrification planning programme for the next financial year.

The municipality is also working tirelessly with both *Sedibeng Water* and the district municipality to ensure the provision of bulk water and sanitation provision in the area as part of the overall town establishment process.

We owe it to our communities to provide sustainable human settlement to restore their human dignity as enshrined in the Constitution. In this regard we have also proceeded with plans to establish a new township in Blydeville Extension 4 which will benefit in excess of 1 100 households situated in what is now infamously known as *Lens* section. To date, land has been identified, professional team has been assembled and the environmental impact study is underway.

The plight of some one thousand five hundred (1 500) households residing in the informal settlement within Itekeng to have access to habitable settlement remains an integral part of our agenda. As a municipality we have finalised the draft lay-out plan for the new township establishment and have quantified the costs associated with the appointment of a professional team to conduct geo-technical studies and pegging of sites. We remain optimistic that the actualisation of this project will unfold towards the end of the second quarter as we push relentlessly to secure funding for this development.

Bagaetsho,

Maitlhomō a rona a go busetsa serodumo sa baagi ba rona ba ba tlhokang matlo a tswelletse go atlega jaaka mo malobeng re ne neela bomme-batsadi ba rona matlo a a agilweng ke puso mo Itsoseng, e le

karolo ya go keteka kgwedi ya bomme (Women's Month). Re tshwanetse ra itlhaganella go tlhalosa gore matlo ano a agilwe gape ke ditlamo tse di eteletsweng pele ke bomme go netefatsa fa puso e tlhoafaleitse maikaelelo a go aga matlafatso ya loago le ekonomi ya bomme ka kakaretso.

Re le puso-selegae ka tirisano le *Lefapha la Dipuso-Selegae le Matlo* re amogela gore go nnile le dikgwetlho tse di farologaneng mo kagong ya matlo mo dikarolong tse di farologaneng tsa metse-selegae go tsenyeletsa le Bodibe. Dikgwetlho tse di tsenyeletsa gareng ga tse dingwe kago ee bonya le ikwadiso ya baba tlhokang matlo le tlhaeletsano gareng ga masepala le bogosi.

Re kabo re setse re fitlheleletse tharabollo ya dingwe tsa dikgwetlho tse di lebaganeng kago ya matlo mo *Bodibe* mme maiteko a rona a paledisitswe ke go tshwarega ga *Bogosi* ka ditiro-di-sa-latsaneng. Re itlamma go bitsa kopano e, gape ka bonako jo bo kgonagalang le *Motlotlegi Kgosi Matlaba*. Dikopano tse dingwe le tsona di tla tshwarwa le *Magosi* a mangwe a a amegang morago ga go buisana le makhanselara a a amegang le kemedi ya lefapha la dipuso-selegae.

Le fa gone go na le dikgwetlo tse di farologaneng re tshwanetse ra totobatsa le go itsise setshaba se se fa gore puso e tswelletse ka diporojeke tsa matlo mo mafelong a tshwana le yona Bodibe, Itsoseng, Verdwaal, Itekeng, Grasfontein, Bakerville, Boikhutso le Tlhabologang.

Honourable Councillors,

To turn Ditsobotla Local Municipality into an efficient and effective institution of service delivery, it has become imperative for us to intensify the fight against fraudulent and corrupt tendencies among municipal officials. My office will direct the accounting officer to commence a process of conducting an investigation on municipal officials engaged in conducting business with the municipality and the extent of transactions accruing from them as well as ethical considerations thereon.

The days of municipal officials conducting their private businesses during working hours, using municipal resources and office space, are now over. Those who work for Ditsobotla Local Municipality will have to choose between their private business interest and a commitment to serving the communities.

Additionally, I will be communicating an instruction to the municipal manager to engage the relevant government agencies to conduct a lifestyle audit on all managers of the municipality as part of an initiative towards curbing the manifestation of corrupt activities and self-enrichment through rate payer's money. Good corporate governance also dictates on us that we move swiftly in adopting the requisite policies for consequence management in dealing with financial ill-discipline among municipal officials.

We however, acknowledge and commend those officials who remain steadfast in upholding the principles of good ethical conduct in the execution of their day-to-day duties.

Bagaetsho;

Re tshotse tshwetso ya go tlhokomela fa baagi ba rona mo metseng le metsana ee farologaneng ba bona ditirelo le tshedimosetso ka ga masepala gaufi le mo ba dulang gona. Ka ga jalo re tlile go itlhaganedisa go fetolwa ga kagego ya masepala ka go bula dikantoro tse di dirang, di na le badiri ba ba nang le bokgoni mo Itsoseng, Tlhabologang/Coligny le Biesiesvlei. Seno re tshwanetse ra se fitlhella pele ga bokhutlo jwa Sedimonthole (December).

We also need to ensure that those that are employed in various positions within the administration possess the requisite capacity to perform their tasks to enable us to respond to community needs. The skills audit that we will be conducting in the coming month must be able to tell us whether we are adequately geared to respond to the challenges we face and if not so, what interventions must we put in place.

Kwa bokhutlong re itlama go tswelera go dirisana le Dikgosi tsa rona mo Ditsobotla go ba dira karolo ya ditshwetso tsa lekgotla la mmasepala. Ka tirisano le Mmusa-kgotla le Seme-segolo re tlile go kopana le magosi go bontshana mekgwa ee ka re kgontsha go tokafatsa tirisano-mmogo e re setseng re na le yona go fitlha ga jaana.

Re leboga Bogosi Boo-Rrapulana gore bo be bo emeng nokeng maitlhommo a puso-selegae ya Ditsobotla go atamela baagi ka go tshwara moletlo oo tshwanange le o.

Pula!! Re a leboga.

