

**MAYORAL INAUGURATION ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE, CLR RENIAS KHUMALO, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AT LIVING WATERS CHURCH (MKHUHLU)**

29 JULY 2011

INTRODUCTION

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Honourable MEC for Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, MEC Madala Masuku

The house of Traditional Leaders

Honourable Council Speaker

Honourable Chief whip

Honourable MMC's

Councillors

Distinguished guests and all sectors- Labour, Business, Sports and Religious Leaders, Compatriots, Comrades and Friends.

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

Ri perilé

Le shonile

Thobela

Goie naand

Fellow Countrymen, I speak before you today with only two (02) days left to complete the month of July. The month that is synonymous with doing well for the less privileged, the month that is synonymous with the name of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela- the greatest Leader in our life time. To that end, I would like to thank everyone who heeded the international call to help the less fortunate by spending 67 minutes of their time doing community services to help improve the standard of living for the less fortunate during the 2011 67 minutes of Mandela day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. I am indeed touched by the spirit you have shown in honouring the greatest Leader of our life time Mr Nelson Mandela who is currently spending his time with his family in Qunu- Mthata (Eastern Cape) and with the powers bestowed upon me as the Executive Mayor, allow me to say Bushbuckridge Local

Municipality wishes Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela a happy belated birthday and wish him many more years. We should not wait for Mandela 'birth day celebration to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. We ought to make every day a Mandela day. By doing so we will be relieving the burden on the government's shoulders.

Fellow South Africans, this year's Local Government election marked South Africa's third successful local government elections by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa. This year's local government elections in Bushbuckridge also proved that our people still have confidence in the ANC led Council in the municipality. I therefore wish to thank everyone who practised his/her Constitutional right by voting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. To those who voted for the ANC, the ANC wish to thank you very much for defending the National Democratic Revolution, the legacy of the Mandelas, Tambo's, and Dube's to mention but a few. The ANC as the party of the people will not condemn anyone who did not vote for us. Albeit your vote putting our revolution on Auction, ours will be to give you service to prove to you once again that we are a Party of the people by the people, which we will continue to fight all those who want to put our revolution on auction.

The electorate has spoken through their votes and the outcome product is a team of dedicated men and women who were sworn in as Councillors on the 01<sup>st</sup> of June 2011. In that inaugural ceremony of the new Council on 01<sup>st</sup> June 2011 at the Council Chamber, I said in my acceptance speech that's "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 a daily basis" I further said "working together irrespective of our political affiliations, we can rescue our people from the shackles of poverty and under development caused by the apartheid government".

I still commit today here, that this third democratically elected Council of Bushbuckridge comprise of dedicated men and women who want to see change in the region. I also want to assure you that any Councillor compromising our goal of striving for the developmental and prosperous life for all will not last as the ANC has a right to recall any Councillor/s. A clarion call is also extended to the opposition parties in the Council that we hope you have seconded hard workers who want to see our people living a better life.

Allow me commend on a job well done by the previous Council. The previous Council has done wonders to this Municipality. Under the tutelage of the Executive Mayor, Comrade Milton Morema, the Municipality under his leadership 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 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.

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 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.

All Councillors signed contracts with the people, when they were sworn in on the 01<sup>st</sup> of June 2011; that by itself was a prove that all Councillors understood the role expected of them to play. The local sphere of government has a direct contact with the electorates. To that end, it is fundamental to know that as Councillors this is not an employment opportunity, but a task that which seek to undo the injustices done by apartheid.

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 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 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.

It is with reference to the above quote from the 2009 State of the Nation Address that I wish to commit as the Executive Mayor that's in the next 100 days in office; we want to achieve the following amongst others.

**(A) MUNICIPAL WORKS AND WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- Appointment of six technicians for water quality
- Appointment of plant operators
- Complexion of 5 mega litre reservoir at Acornhoek
- Appointment of all Consultant for 2011/2012 financial year
- Connection of water from canal to Orinoco
- Completion of 2000 VIP toilets
- Reconstruction of Mkhuhlu road

- Construction of Sandford bridge (Mariti)
- Construction of Ka – Share to Hluvukani bridge
- Tarring of Ximhungwe phase II road
- Thabakgolo to Violet bank tar road
- Purchasing of heavy machinery for maintenance of our internal streets

Fellow South Africans, the above is a list of projects to be undertaken in the next 100 days of our office as the new Council. These projects will be championed by both the municipal works and water services directorates of the municipality.

**(B) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING. THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WILL BE ATTENDED TO IN THE NEXT 100 DAYS**

**(i) LED PROJECTS WITHIN 100 DAYS**

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>ESTIMATED JOBS TO BE CREATED</b>
▪ BT Timber saw mill	50
▪ Phaphama Agricultural Project	50
▪ Ndziya Mahlweni Agricultural Project	50
▪ Masakeng Agricultural Project	40
▪ Newington C Project	60

**(ii) ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNIT PROJECTS**

- Greening of R40 Boulevard Road
- Fencing of Mkhuhlu and Thulamahashe dumping sites
- Celebration of women and environment
- Maviljan R40 road clean-up campaign
- Construction of recycling centre at Acornhoek

**(iii) LAND USE AND PLANNING UNIT**

There will be two outreach programmes with regards to land use scheme, By – Laws and Spatial Development Framework.

**(C) COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

The following will be done in the next 100 days

- Children recreation day
- Elders soccer tournament for women
- Heritage day celebration
- Sensitization workshop on HIV/AIDS for Traditional Healers

**(D) FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

- To ensure that this Council continues to strive for a developmental and prosperous life for all. The Municipality has a total budget of one Billion one hundred and fifty four Million, five hundred and forty eight Thousand (1 154 548). This budget is for both capital and operational cost. This total budget will be spent as follows:

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ALLOCATED AMOUNT</b>
1. FINANCE	Sixty nine million, five hundred and thirty thousand (69 530.00)
2. CORPORATE SERVICES	Two hundred and thirty six million, eight hundred and seventy six thousand (R236 876 00)
3. INTERNAL AUDIT	Five hundred and ninety seven thousand (R597 000)
4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	Seven million, one hundred and fifty thousand (R7 150 000)
5. COMMUNITY SERVICES	Thirty three million, four hundred and forty thousand (R33 440 000)
6. OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER	Four million, nine hundred and fifty five thousand (R4 955 000)
7. OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER	Twenty nine million, nine hundred and forty eight thousand (29 948 000)
8. OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	Two million and one hundred and seventy six thousand (2 176 000)
9. COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES – TRAFFIC	Two million six hundred and ninety five thousand (R2 695 000)
10. MUNICIPAL WORKS – PUBLIC WORKS	Seventy seven million and three hundred thousand (R77 300 000)
11. MUNICIPAL WORKS – WATER	One hundred and forty seven million, three hundred thousand (147 300 000)
12. MUNICIPAL WORKS – ROADS	Twenty five million (R25 000 000)

13. MUNICIPAL WORKS - REFUSE	One million and nine hundred thousand (1 900 000)
14. MUNICIPAL WORKS - SEWARAGE	One million (100 000 000)

As per our municipality's vision, we indeed strive for a developmental and prosperous life for all. We continue to argue in our mission statement that through accountability, transparency and responsible governance, the municipality commits itself to provide affordable and sustainable services by enhancing community participation. Through our mission statement, it is crystal clear that Bushbuckridge local municipality stands strong against corruption, that corruption by either Officials or Councillors will not be tolerated and that anyone found of practising corruption will be brought to book.

To all municipal Officials, I want you to serve the institution with excellence. Always remember the reason why you have been employed by the municipality. This is category B municipality and it was declared in 2001 by the former State President, Thabo Mbeki as a nodal point. It is therefore important to know and acknowledge the fact that we are the only people who can turn things around. This Council wants to see improvement on revenue collection and those responsible for ensuring that there is revenue collection must consolidate their strategies, because ours as the political leadership is to see this municipality growing in leaps and bounds by boosting better revenue collection.

Fellow South Africans, allow me to detail to you our programme for the next five years this Council wants to embark on programmes that will ensure the electorate – our people that the ANC led government will never put the Revolution on Auction by failing to come with programmes that will create a better life for all, should we fail ; we shall be selling the revolution that Sisulus, Thambo's, Peter Mokaba, Chris Hani, Steve Biko, Govan Mbeki and many other martyrs who devoted their lives to the struggle to ensure emancipation of the oppressed from the chains of Apartheid and colonialism.

#### **OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2011-2016)**

1. Build local economies to create more employment decent work and sustainable livelihoods.
  - Resuscitation of the following projects: Champaign Citrus Farm and chicken Abattoir, Lisbon Citrus Estate, Bushbuckridge clay bricks, Bushbuckridge Nature Reserve, Allandale Citrus Farm, Irrigation Schemes (New Forest, Dingle Dale and Hoxani) Cork – Thulani Tourism Development and the five LED projects ( Aqua-culture, Essential oils, Stone crushing, manufacturing incubator and rural accommodation). It is envisaged that 10 thousand jobs will be created.
2. Improve local public services and broaden access
  - Establishment of land fill sites and solid waste recycling
  - Four public libraries, four public parks, two additional DLTCs, naming of streets and public building, acquire electricity distribution licence from Eskom, acquire housing accreditation, fully functioning of the disability centre.

- Tarring of access roads
  - Completion of the bulk pipe line from Acornhoek to Manyeleti and Dwarssloop to Acornhoek
  - Upgrading of sewer treatment plants.
  - VIP toilets.
  - Servicing of sites.
  - Housing.
  - Electrification of outstanding areas and extensions.
3. Building more united, integrated and safer communities
- Implement Spatial Development Framework.
  - Fully functioning of the disaster management centre.
  - Erect high mast lights in outstanding areas.
  - Strengthening of community structures such as CPFs, MAM, and Local Safety Forum etc.
  - Strengthening of programmes and structures designed to empower the target groups.
4. Promote more active participation in local government
- We will ensure that ward committees are established and functional in all the wards.
  - Provide administrative support to ward committees.
  - Ensure that ward committees have report back meetings 14 days after every Council sitting.
  - Implement capacity building programmes for both public representatives and ward committee members.
  - At least eight mayoral imbizos per annum.
  - Communication department will ensure that citizens are at all times informed about municipal activities.
5. Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with provincial and national government.
- Strengthening of the following committees: MPAC, oversight committee, audit committee and performance management committee.
  - To strive for a clean audit by 2014.
  - Monitor the implementation of the fraud and prevention strategy.
  - Monitor the implementation of the service standards as per Batho Pele principles.
  - Improve the turn-around time for public queries.
  - Strive for transparency in the supply chain processes.

Countrymen, I have spent time detailing what we want to achieve within 100 days of our office and what we want to achieve in the next five years and I guess the question in every person's mind is what exactly does the ANC led Bushbuckridge municipality Council want to achieve as government.

As enshrined in the 2011 ANC Councillor Resource Pack. What we want to achieve in government is the ANC government that works for achievement of a united, non racial, non sexist, democratic and

prosperous South Africa and for this to happen, as we apply ourselves to these and other tasks, we must acknowledge that we find ourselves in difficult economic times. Jobs are being lost in every economy across the world. We will not be spared the negative impact, and are beginning to feel the pinch. However, the foundations of our economy are strong and we will need to continue to build on them.

This, fellow South Africans the ANC led government feels this will require more hard work than ever before. To achieve all our goals, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards of service, probity and integrity. Together we must build a society that prizes excellence and rewards effort, which shuns laziness and incompetence. We must build a society that draws on the capabilities, energy and promise of its entire people.

The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) as adopted by the cabinet spells out how government will implement the mandate we have been given by the people. It summarises the electoral mandate as follows:

- Halve poverty and unemployment by 2014
- Ensure a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth and reduce inequality.
- Improve the nation's health profile and skills base and ensure universal access to basic services.
- Improve the safety of citizens by reducing incidents of crime and corruption.
- Build a nation free of all forms of racism, sexism, tribalism and xenophobia.

Fellow South Africans, allow me also to acknowledge the key challenges facing South Africa and government services, we are faced with challenges regarding poverty, inequality and unemployment. In terms of wealth, our society is still divided along racial lines and while a small minority of formally disadvantaged people have managed to become economically empowered, the majority are still in poverty.

Around half of South Africa's people survive on less than R526 per month (the 2008 Statistics South Africa estimate for the amount individual needs to buy basic foods and services). More than half of those who are poor live in female headed households. Around 15 million people receive a social grant of some kind from government of these 12 million are child support.

Unemployment ranges between 24 % and 38 % depending on which measures are used. The official government figures for those who are unemployed but actively seeking work were around 25 % in 2010. More women than men are unemployed and unemployment differences between race groups in 2007 for example; it was 27.7 % for Africans, Coloureds 19.5 %, and Indians 12.7% while it was only 4.6% for whites. People with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalised in South Africa. About 4% of people are disabled. They are much underrepresented in the available employment statistics and about 1.5 million of the estimated people with disabilities survive on social grants.



To fight against the marginalisation of people living with disability, under the Community Services Directorate a World Class Disability Centre in Marite is currently under construction. The centre will cost the Municipality approximately R9 Million and we believe that by end of this year the building will be completed as it is now 70 % complete. We continue to give wheelchairs and to arrange or organise disability summits and workshops to take stock of the challenges faced by our people living with disability.

These are some of the key challenges we are also facing in Bushbuckridge. As a nodal municipality, it is therefore evident that as enshrined in the Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP), we are experiencing difficulties with unemployment, illiteracy, HIV/Aids etc. it is my sincere believe and hope that in these five years, our turnaround strategy will indeed turn around our people lives for their betterment. This Council will make sure that by end of this term of Councillors, there is indeed tangible evidence that our people are now living a better life.

I therefore wish to make a clarion call to the business sector to work hand in hand with us because together we now have to do more, and we have to do it better.

Mmogo re ka dira kgontshi

Hiku tirhisana swinwe hinga endla swo tala

Sisonke singenza okuningi

Together we can do more.

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 and Traffic)
3. Clr Follas Sibuyi ( Finance, Supply Chain, LED, Planning & Environment)
4. Clr Flomina Ntimba ( Social Development)
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 on administration that embraces and promotes Batho Pele and understands the core mandate of public service. To all youth structures in Bushbuckridge, I wish to commend you as well for the sterling work you are doing in the region. I have noticed quite a lot of programmes that you have under taken in the past and allow me reaffirm that my office will always be open for you to engage. I wish to also commend our Traditional Leaders for the cooperation they have and continue to give the municipality.

In valuing the precious role they play in the running of government affairs, I personally embarked on a journey with all my members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) to visit all the Traditional Leaders in Bushbuckridge during the second week of June 2011 to formally introduce myself and the team. To all the Traditional Leaders we visited we were welcomed with sights before and during the smiles, a sign that indeed signalled the desire and willingness to work together. To our Religious Leaders, I also wish to thank you for always putting Bushbuckridge in your prayers; it is indeed true that cursed is one who does not know God. We will continue to work with you.

Equally important let me also thank all the ANC Structures for and during the local government elections to ensure that the ANC once again receives the mandate to run this municipality. I shall not disappoint you and will lead this institution with excellence. Lastly to my family the Khumalos, thank you for your kind understanding and support. You have trusting me and my team with the responsibility to lead the region. You have spent sleep less night before and still continue to go to bed without me in the house; you have and still continue to have dinner without me. This indeed shows that you understand the revolution I am engaged in, that I belong to the ANC, that I have decided to be the servant of the people, that I have made it my course to defend the revolution that the likes the Sisulus, Tambo's, Lambede's, Mandela's, Dube's and the Mbeki's defended and fought for.

Allow me to conclude my speech by wishing the South African National Rugby Team all the best in the upcoming rugby world cup to be held in New Zealand in a month or so from today. May in the we all rally behind the team, may we all show the same spirit as we did prior and during the soccer world cup in South Africa last year. May we all don the rugby T-shirt to show our support as a united nation to the boys. **GO BOKKE MAYIBUYE ! BRING THE TROPHY HOME!**

Ke a leboga

Inkomu

Ngiya bonga

I thank you

Baie dankie