

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS WORSHIP
EXECUTIVE MAYOR ON THE OCCASION OF THE
STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS HELD AT
ELANDSKRAAL ON THE 10TH MARCH 2011.**

Madam Speaker
Members of the Mayoral Committee,
Mayors and Speakers of our Local Municipalities,
Chief whip of Council and the ruling party,
Fellow Councillors,
Members of the National and provincial legislature,
Chairperson of MPAC and Chairpersons of our Section 79
Portfolio Committees,
Chairperson of the District House of Traditional Leaders,
Your Majesties, our Traditional Leaders,
Leadership of the African National Congress and other
political parties represented in our council,
Leadership of business and labour organizations,
Leadership of religious bodies, women, youth and other
sectors,
NGOs, state and district parastatal,
Acting Municipal Manager of the District and Municipal
Managers of our local municipalities,
Officials of the state departments in the district and other
organs of the state,
Our Chapter 9 institutions,
Community media and other media fraternity,
Dignitaries and invited guests,
Setšhaba ka kakaretso

Good afternoon, Dumelang, Thobela, Siyanibonani!

Madam Speaker allow me to take this opportunity to welcome all present here on this august occasion of the 2011 state of the District Address.

Today marks yet another important milestone in the history of our district, we are indeed here to interact and engage with our people as we deepen our democracy through mass participation.

We are meeting here in Elansdkraal, Ephraim Mogale local Municipality to reflect on the state of affairs in our district in so far as service delivery is concern.

This local municipality that we have converged under like the rest of the local municipalities in the district, has produced many revolutionaries who have immense contribution to our struggle for freedom and equality.

Madam Speaker

History will judge us heavily if we omit to pay tribute to local heroes and heroines of this area, such great names include Nkwana Maditsi, Ephraim Mogale, Ronny Phokona, Strike Malope, Mama Lydia Komape to name but a few.

Madam Speaker, the dawn of democratic dispensation in 1994 has ushered in many positive developments and changes in the lives of our people.

We must take this opportunity to reflect on where we come from as a district and generally as a people. Sekhukhune district has a rich and profound struggle and cultural history.

Our people have undoubtedly contributed in shaping the political landscape and history of this country.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the inaugural crop of councillors under the leadership of Cllr Namane Dickson Masemola, who literally build the foundation of this district out of hard work, resilience's and vision.

We started as a district municipality with a budget of 3 million and one office block in Groblersdal, in January 2001 immediately after the 5th December 2000 first democratic local government elections.

Unlike other municipalities which existed in the past and inherited infrastructure, systems, resources and assets, ours was practically started on a new foundation.

Madam Speaker,

The vision of democratic local government in South Africa was conceptualized by the ruling party, the African National Congress, informed and guided by the ideals of the Freedom Charter.

The freedom charter remains the guiding vision for our national developmental local government.

It is a blueprint for our democracy, a roadmap to a united, non-racial, non-sexiest and prosperous South Africa that our forebears laid their lives for.

We have traversed a long road since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Our freedom was indeed build with the blood and sweat of many of our mateyers who paid the ultimate price of life one amongst them is Flag Boshielo.

We must use this occasion to pay tribute to heroes and heroines of our revolution, who guided by love for their country and people devoted themselves to noble ideals of

emancipation from oppression, racism, inequality and exploitation.

Madam speaker

I dare to say, those revolutionaries were indeed propelled and motivated by the profound words uttered decades ago, by that celebrated internationalist revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara when he said,

I quote "Great revolutionary is guided by true feelings of love" end quote.

The teachings of our forebears and Che Guevara are indeed more relevant than ever today, that all of us who are tasked with a responsibility of leading our people must indeed have love and compassion for the very same people we lead.

We decided in 2001 to name this Municipality Greater Sekhukhune and later renamed it to Sekhukhune District Municipality.

In naming our district Sekhukhune, we were informed by nothing except the unparalleled role played by Kgoshi Sekhukhune played in our struggle.

Kgoshi Sekhukhune is not only an icon in our country but internationally as his legacy is celebrated all over the world, given the dynamic and heroic manner he led the Bapedi Nation against colonialism and apartheid.

As part of cultural tourism and preservation of our history and heritage, we need to partner with history departments of Universities as well as department of Sport, Art and

Culture in staging Annual Kgoshi Sekhukhune Memorial Lecture under TSate Annual Heritage celebrations.

We owe it to KgoŠi Sekhukhune, to Bapedi Nation, to ourselves and our children, to ensure that we continue to conscientious our people about where we come from so that we know where we are going because the future is always determined by history and history is determined by culture and tradition.

We also pay tributes to the role played by King Sekwati Mampuru and King Nyabela of Amadebele.

Madam Speaker this year marks the 50th anniversary of the conferring of the Nobel Peace Prize Award to Chief Albert Luthuli, 8th President General of the African National Congress, from 1952-1967.

Chief Albert Luthuli became the 1st African to receive the Nobel Peace Award in 1961; coincidentally it was the same year which we experienced the formation of the people's glorious army, Umkhonto We Siswe.

We Pay tribute to Chief Albert Luthuli and his generation for having laid a solid foundation for our democracy and freedom, we are indeed indebted to their selfless sacrifices.

Like I said earlier on, our District is full of a rich and profound history in so far as the struggle against colonialism and apartheid is concerned.

It was his majesty King Sekhukhune. Who led a heroic anti-colonial battle against the English in 1878.

The 1878 Battle served as an inspiration to subsequent battles waged by the people of Sekhukhune against apartheid tyranny and its draconian laws.

We remember the heroic generation of Sebatakomo, a migrant anti-apartheid organisation formed to defend the people of Sekhukhune against white supremacy.

It was Sebatakomo which led the famous 1958 anti-apartheid rural revolt.

These rural revolts also occurred in Zeerust, Pondoland etc and later serve as a foundation for people's glorious army; Umkhonto We Siswe.

We learnt that it was the people of Sekhukhune who went to the ANC leadership to request arms to defend their territory.

We therefore on this important occasion, pay special tribute to the generation of Sebatakomo, many of whom became founding members of Umkhonto We Siswe.

Such great names include but not limited to the following:

Flag Boshielo, Elias Motsoaledi, John Mahwidi Phala, Elias Moretsele, Mme Madinoge, Uria Maleka, Lord Maredi, Mogaramedi Sekhukhune, John Nkadimeng, Lawrence Phokanoka, Ramphelane Mampuru, Nelson Diale and many others.

We also pay tribute to great revolutionaries such as, Njinga Sindane, Fawcet Mathebe, George Squirrel Mashegoane, Nkwana Maditsi, Solomon Maditsi, Boikie Letlapa Mashego, Komosasa Letona Nyathi and many others.

They demonstrated extra ordinary bravery and leadership in fighting the regime and bringing about democratic order in our country.

Madam Speaker

Re se re lego sona ka baka la karolo e bohlokwa yeo a kgathilwego ke ba lwela tokologo mo nageng ya ga borena ya Sekhukhune.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the brutal killing of Peter Nchabeleng by the apartheid Bantustan police.

We pay tribute to Ntate Peter Nchabeleng, a revolutionary fighter who defied apartheid regime and continue to mobilise and guide the youth and the United Democratic Front during difficult times of state of emergency.

We celebrate younger generations of Fawcet Mathebe, Ephraim Mogale, Thabang Makwetla, Danny Mziza, Stan Mathabatha, Piet Mathebe, Mokopa Mampa and many others.

They responded to the call by then President of the ANC Oliver Reginald Tambo in rendering the apartheid unworkable and ungovernable.

Program Director

I am going at length in explaining where we come from as to illustrate a point about rich history of this district that we are today privileged to lead.

I therefore call upon our people to spare neither effort nor strength, in making sure that we preserve this history and make our forebears proud. We dare not disappoint them.

Few weeks ago, we celebrated the 21st anniversary of the release from prison of our struggle Icon Nelson Mandela and other leaders.

The occasion also marked the unbanning of liberation movements as led by the African National Congress.

We take this opportunity to join President Jacob Zuma and Premier Cassel Mathale in expressing gratitude to people all over the world, for the prayers dedicated to Utata Mandela's recovery.

We will forever cherish President Nelson Mandela as state man and what he stands for. We are privileged to have him as a veteran, icon and father figure of our nation.

Compatriots

The President of our country His Excellency, Honourable Jacob Zuma delivered his third State of the Nation Address on the 10th February 2011.

The theme of the State of the Nation Address was 'Job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth.

President Jacob Zuma administration has decided to declare 2011 a year of job creation and all government spheres and agencies should direct resources and energy towards job creation as a strategic thrust.

We have entered the end term of the current local government which was elected in March 2006.

When we began our term of office in 2006, we promised our people improved service delivery and better life.

It is only fair that we also update our people on key achievements as well as challenges since 2006 and celebration of the 10th anniversary of the democratic local government.

The current council as elected in 2006 identified 6 strategic areas which will inform and guide municipality in terms of planning, budgeting and programs.

These strategies are:

- Creating decent work and building growing economy
- Promoting quality education and skills development
- Ensuring better health care for all

- Stimulating rural development and food security
- Intensifying the fight against crime and corruption
- Building cohesive and sustainable communities and
- Strengthening the developmental state and good governance

Madam Speaker

We have commissioned a study on 10 year review of the Sekhukhune District Municipality.

The purpose of the 10 year review is to provide analysis of socio-economic indicators that are essential for developing and implementing policy and tracking developmental goals.

As the tenure of the current district government draws to a close, it is important to take stock of the strides made in our communities through provision of services and job creation.

The process of concluding and consolidating the 10 year review is an ongoing and we should finalize results before the local government elections on the 18th May this year.

I will however like to share with you some key milestones and challenges experienced over the last ten years.

Madam Speaker

An important observation is that the district has also seen a fall in the rate of HIV/AIDS which no doubt represents positive impact of government awareness campaigns on the pandemic.

In terms of economic performance, our district economy is slowly transforming from production dominated largely by primary sector activity to a more developed economy that includes tertiary sector.

Our Gross Domestic product by Region (GDPR) in our District contributed over the last year's excess 12% towards Limpopo GDP.

The District has seen a growth in employment between 2000-2009 and a decline in unemployment.

This increase in employment was as a result of booming sectors such as mining expansions, wholesale&retail trade, construction and manufacturing sectors.

Working Together we can Do more in Job Creation.

Bana ba Thulare

As I have already indicated, our State President Honorable Jacob Zuma outlined 2011 as a year for Job Creation. And it is therefore imperative to articulate that in detail.

Hence we are not immune from the shackles of high levels of unemployment, we need to hit this call by finding ways and means to create enabling environment for job creation.

And as the Premier of our Province has said during the State of the Province Address last month, and I quote :

"Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Plan (LEGDP) should drive a faster, more inclusive and job creating growth pattern.

As a province, we are expected to create more than four-hundred-thousand job opportunities in the next nine years as part of contributing to the national target of creating 5 million employment opportunities by the year 2020".

End quote.

Having outlined that, our Premier expects of us as Sekhukhune District Municipality to leverage opportunities available to us through Mining, Agriculture and Tourism.

And we dare not falter.

After the announcement of the Limpopo Employment Growth and Development Plan during the State of the Province last year, the District Municipality has already engaged vigorously in enforcing its implementation as approved by council.

We believe in the primary aim of the LEGDP as in aggressively dealing with the issue of employment in the province and prioritizing high impact areas that are employment led.

Madam Speaker

There is a belief that 'Education is a pre-condition for Development'. As people of Sekhukhune, we fully embrace this important thrust.

We therefore say, education remains the only immediately available tool that must be employed to break the cycle of poverty and under development amongst our people.

It is a strategic pillar to commence the protracted voyage of spectacularly uplifting the living conditions of the previously disadvantaged people and the historically marginalized communities.

We join the entire Limpopo province in celebration the overall matric results from 48% to 57% pass rate. This happened amid the public servants' strike and the historic 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Our District has for the 1st time recorded an improved results from 40, 3% to 52,5% in the previous year, 2010.

We join the Premier hounorable Mathele and people of Limpopo in congratulating Team Education under the leadership of our own Gobetse, MEC Dickson Namane

Masemola, for the **2010 Matric results.**

Having owned position number five since the dawn of democracy, now we stand tall and proud as number three and indeed motivated to move upper.

We want to reiterate a point, 'education remains the bedrock of development in every country'.

Whereas education does not fall within the constitutional mandate of local government, as one of the Millennium Development Goals, progress in terms of access to education within the District is worth measuring.

In 2001 there were 774 primary and secondary schools within the District. The number has increased by 16.5% to 905 as at the end of 2010.

The African National Congress led Government has committed that no child should stay out of school because of hunger.

We are pleased to announce that 349 589 learners are currently benefiting from feeding scheme.

The District municipality has committed to work with the Department of education to ensure better provision of education to our children.

We call upon communities, parents in particular to pay special attention to issues of education by becoming social partners in the resolve to improve education system and results.

We call upon teachers in the district to continue working hard in improving the plight of the poor children.

We call on learners to take education seriously by respecting their teachers and prioritizing their books.

We will soon hold **District Education Summit**, wherein we expect critical engagements amongst stakeholders. Merit Awards will be conferred to best performing students as motivation to other learners.

To further build capacity, our district municipality has since 2006 introduced bursary schemes to qualifying students.

We are happy to announce that we recorded immeasurable successes in this regard.

And an estimated amount of **R2,5 million** has been spend since the inception of the programme.

We were able to send thirty three (33) students to internship programmes and we awarded bursaries to forty three (43) students, bringing the total number to seventy six (76).

Our target has always been students who are interested in furthering their studies in Engineering, Economic development, Accounting, and Information Technology so as to respond to skills demand of our district.

We are not impressed with number of deserving applications reserved last year.

We call upon matriculants throughout the district to make use of this golden opportunity by applying on time.

In addition, we wish to announce that the Sekhukhune District Municipality's bursary scheme will from this year, be extended to qualifying orphans as a result of HIV/AIDS challenges, and based on merit.

Compatriots,

We are fully committed to Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

Already, we have taken the responsibility to collaborate with the private sector, institutions of higher learning and our social partners in ensuring successful implementation of this plan.

For example:

- Co-operation with Sekhukhune FET College, CS Barlow Campus;
- Executive Mayor-Mayors and Mine General Managers Development Initiatives Forum;
- SEDA to name but a few.

The District Municipality is committed to contribute to the new era of development which is people driven and people orientated.

Madam Speaker

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa has since **2003** mandated us to be a Water Service Authority.

Therefore as we implement our government's program of Job Creation, some of the important tools we will employ are Infrastructure and Water services and Expanded Public Works Projects.

We aim to ensure that the District Municipality's Infrastructure expenditure is focused on job creation.

Like Premier Cassel Mathale said, our infrastructure expenditure will, amongst others, support and promote enterprise development especially that of the SMME's.

We will prioritize youth, people with disability and women owned businesses and corporative and make sure that government contracts are biased in favor of this sector.

A target of 40% will be our focus going forward.

We have created systems that have capacity to contribute towards economic growth of the district at the same time accelerating service delivery.

Madam Speaker

The Cogta report released last year indicates that the district managed to provide only 5% of basic services.

Without being defensive, we want to take this opportunity to explain that number of reasons can be attributed to the Cogta report.

Key amongst them is that our district has inherited massive infrastructural backlogs as a result of years of systematic exclusion.

Our district unlike some of the municipalities, was never under bantustan governments. We were never recipient of the previous government infrastructural programs.

This explains the reasons we were declared a Presidential nodal point in the year 2005.

I am proud to make public the following key highlights as per our Ten Year Review and latest achievements:

In terms of the Community Survey, 2007, the District has demonstrated an increase in the number of households with **access to water** infrastructure above or equal to the RDP standard from 57% in 2001 to 64.6% in 2007.

This marks an increase of 7.6% for a seven year period.

The percentage growth in the number of households with **access to potable water** in the District Municipality has shown a steady increase.

According to Global Insight, 2010, the following were achieved in terms of water provision to the citizens of SDM between the year 2000 and 2009:

- Access to piped water inside dwelling increased by 88.9% from 8728 in 2000 to 16 484 households in 2009
- Access to piped water in yards increased from 34 964 to 42 653 households, representing a 22% increase.
- Access to communal piped water (less than 200 metres from the dwelling) reflected a 32.8% increase from 29 719 households to 39 456
- Access to communal piped water more than 200 metres from the dwelling also demonstrated a 47.4% increase to 57 172 households from 38 797 in 2000.

It is pleasing to announce that all our **Big FIVE** Bulk Water Schemes have absorbed a sizeable number of workers in their operations.

To name them:

- The Nkadimeng Scheme;
 - Ka tlase ga sona sekimi se re nale diporotseke tse lesome-pedi (12 projects under these scheme)
 - Go thwetswe basomi ba makgolo a mabedi le metso ye mebedi (202 workers employed)
 - Sikimi se se metseng ya go akaretsa Marulaneng le Mphanama, Maila Segolo, Maila Moshate, Maila Mokadi, Molapong le Magolego, ke tsopotse.
- Oliphantspoort Scheme;
 - Ka tlase ga sona sikimi se re nale diporotseke tse tlhano (5 projects under the scheme)

- Go thwetswe basomi ba lekgolo (100 workers employed)
 - Sikimi se ya go hola batho go tswa metseng ya go akaretsa, Ga-Selepe, Monametsi, Mosotsi, Phasha Skraal, Tjibeng, Mahlabeng, Shubushubu le Rostok, Ga-Seroka, Stykraal, Nchabeleng le Mohlaletsi.
- Groblesdaal / Luckau Scheme (BWS);
 - Sikimi se se nale diporotseke tse tharo (3 projects);
 - Go thwetswe basomi ba Masome tshela supa (67 workers),
 - Diporotseke di metseng ya go akaretsa Sephaku, Luckau, Sterkfontein, Ramogwerane le Legolaneng.
- Mooihoek – Tubatse Regional Water Scheme;
 - Sikimi se se nale diporotseke tse tharo (3 projects)
 - Go thwetswe basomi ba lekgolo (100 workers employed)
 - Se akaretsa metse ya kua ga Maroga, Aragopola, Driekop, Riba Cross, Ga-Mashamothane le Burgersfort.
- Nebo Platue Bulk Water Scheme;
 - Porotseke ke ya piphe ye kgolo ya go tloga Ga-Malekana go fihla Jane Furse.
 - Go tloga mo e tloga Jane Furse gomme ya leba Lobethal;
 - Porotseke e thwetse basomi ba lekgolo masome tharo e motso o tee (136 workers employed).

Speaker, the above-mentioned Bulk Water Schemes have projects under them.

These projects include construction of reservoirs, bulk pipe lines, pump stations, Water Treatment Plants, access roads and other small projects.

People of Sekhukhuneland

We recently received funding of twenty million rands (R20 million) from national government through former Minister of Water Affairs Buyelwa Songica.

The money will mainly be used for design of a bulk pipe line from Loskop Dam to whole of Moutse area. Consulting Engineers will complete designs come end of March this year.

In that way, we will then focusing on the actual job of constructing the bulk pipe line that will supply Moutse people with water.

(Re hweditše tšhelete ya go kaba dimilione tše masome pedi tša diranta go tšwa kgorong ya ditirelo tša meetse.

Tšhelete ye e tla thusa mararankoding a go tšea metse letamong la Loskop go ya metseng ya Moutse ka bophara.

Ka morago ga kgwedi tše pedi re tlile go fiwa dipolane gomme e gwa latela kago ya piphe ye kgolo ya go tlo sepediša meetse).

Equally important, I am very pleased that a bulk pipe line called Carbonatides to Zaaiplaas is to start in the next two months.

These projects will benefit people residing in Hlogotlou, Dindela, Rondebosch, Nkosini, Mathula, Holnek, Sehlakwane and Elandslaagte.

(Ke bolela ka phaephe ye kgolo ya meets ye e tlo holago badudi ba Hlogotlou, Dindela, Rondebosch, Nkosini, Mathula, Holnek, Sehlakwane and Elandslaagte.

Phaephe ye e tla thoma mo go a diwa mo dikgweding tše pedi).

(Go agiwa ga letamo la De Hoop go tšwelapele gabotse. Le Setše le le go dipersente tše masome tlhano tshela, le thomile ka 2007 gomme le tla fela ngwaga o tlogo ka 2012.

Lona le thwetše bašomi ba gotšwa mo Sekhukhune ba go lekana makgolo a seswai – 800 workers).

- We report that, the much anticipated **De Hoop Dam** is also giving us good news each day we visit that side.
 - has employed more than eight hundred (800) locals;
 - The dam is 56% complete and it will employ more people;
 - It was started in June 2007 and it is expected to be completed next year in October.

De Hoop Dam will pump water to our communities, mines, farms, and the business community in the District.

We want to clarify media reports suggesting that the dam will only supply mines and businesses to the exclusion of households.

The water from De Hoop Dam will fit into all the schemes we have as a district.

And we urge our people not to fall prey to rumours that its water will supply people outside Sekhukhune.

In light of these achievements, there are a number of households without access to piped water and remains a challenge that we are prepared to overcome.

Madam speaker as part of our efforts to provide quality and reliable water to our people, we have early this year conducted **Public Participation Program for**

Sekhukhune Water By law as well as new contract for Lepelle Northern Water.

We will soon finalize on these two issues and report to our communities accordingly.

Speaker, access to **sanitation** is a constitutional right entrenched in the Bill of Rights.

And our status quo is as follows, households without any form of sanitation in SDM decreased from 35 403 in 2000 to 13 035 in 2009.

Along the same lines, the number of households with flush toilets increased from 15 515 in 2000 to 19 261 in 2009.

The efforts to eradicate the bucket system appear to be on track with a 60% drop from 1330 in 2000 to 532 in 2009.

Regarding **electricity**, Eskom is the main provider in the District and our role is confined to the provision of free basic electricity.

It is estimated that as many as 224 villages are still without electricity, with an estimated backlog of 43 990 households.

Government is currently involved in talks with other departments to deal with these backlogs in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Against this backdrop, the following achievements were realized between 2000 and 2009:

- Electricity connections for lighting only showed an increase of 30.7% from 66 885 to 87 410 connections. This means there were over 20 000 connections over the period under the review,

- Electricity connections for lighting and other purposes increased significantly by 63 824 connections from 47 416, reflecting a 134.6% improvement, and
- Number of households not using electricity was halved from 85 257 to 43 990.

However, the district municipality can't hide the fact that more still need to be done on provision of electricity particularly in Greater Tubatse Municipality.

On **refuse removal**, the service has been spread to a significant number of dwellings that did not have it before. Before, the service was only provided to large urban centres.

In order to cover more human settlements on refuse removal, the District's Integrated Waste Management Strategy Plan as approved in 2005 is operational.

Working together we can do more.

Madam Speaker

This ANC led-government remains true to programs that are people driven in making sure that more rapid and equitable Distribution of opportunities and benefits are promoted and supported.

In achieving that we have always embraced the saying that goes "Kgosi ke Kgosi ka setsaba le setsaba ke setsaba ka Kgosi".

We have built a solid and healthy relationship between ourselves and our traditional leaders. Our District Local Houses of Traditional Leaders is fully functional.

Let me take this opportunity to invite you to Inauguration of the District Local House of Traditional Leaders to be held at Ga-Motodi on the 25th March 2011.

The ANC-led government value the fundamental role played by traditional leaders in strengthening our democracy.

We have increased their participation in government structures, like portfolio committees and Council.

Guided by our municipal policy as adopted by our council, our local government will continue offering support to individual or collective traditional leaders.

Government seeks to continuously enable traditional leaders to meet expectations from their respective communities.

Working Together with our traditional leaders we can do more.

Fellow people of Sekhukhuneland

Like the rest of the world, we are living in difficult times.

Bophelo bo thathafile. Mogolo-golo o boletše a re: 'hlogo ye meetse e lotwa ke mong wa yona'.

La ba la iposeletse ka gore:

'tshipa e rile ke lebelo mohlaba wa re ke nabile'.

All this because of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other deadly diseases that cuts across age, colour, status, wealth and everything.

That is why health is receiving substantial amounts of allocations from our national Treasury as evident during the recent Budget Speech.

The total amount spent on non-hospital primary health care services per person without medical aid coverage increased from R 137.00 in 2001 to R 271.00 in 2009.

We have always provided and will continue providing water, sanitation and access roads facilities to our clinics and hospitals. We need them to renders services unhindered.

Be that as it may, allow me to state that as the District Municipality, we have not folded our arms.

Having celebrated our Condom Week during the past three weeks, we called on everybody to action, and our message will forever be "Condom Use Equals Good Behavior by all".

In giving concrete expression to one of ANC led Government key priorities, Health, the district has benefited from building and upgrading of forty one (41) clinics between 20001-2010.

Most importantly, seven (7) of our district hospitals have enjoyed massive revitalization and upgrading.

We do this as the discovery of platinum reserves and other minerals in the Eastern Limpopo mining belt, resulted in cross mix of the populace. They come from all over to work.

Our District AIDS Council is fully functional and together with our partners, work is progressing very well.

We are also proud to report that we are ranking very low in our province regarding HIV / AIDS prevalence.

The Sekhukhune District Municipality is engaged in serious work ranging from support for the organized HIV/Aids awareness, advocacy, treatment and care formations and community activities

That is why we are saying "**I am Responsible, We are Responsible, South Africa is taking Responsibility**".

Working Together we can do more.

Compatriots

The past Ten Years of Local government was not easy ride.

During the Inauguration of the Executive Mayor held at Jane Furse in 2009, a reasonable amount of time was dedicated on issues aimed at capacitating and strengthening the District Municipality.

I am happy to report that we have been able to implement strategic policies intended at making sure that we comply with the corporate laws of our country.

We have achieved institutional transformation that resulted in our municipalities being the real institutions of excellence in service delivery which meets the expectations of people.

As we speak, we have already adopted a clear District Turn-Around Strategy which unambiguously articulates the mandate and the programme of action in our institution.

We perform this function guided by our respective needs and circumstances of our municipality as the "Development Orientated Leader in Service Delivery".

We are always a responsive, accountable, and effective local government structure that is self sustainable and able to make a significant contribution to the course of improving the lives of our people.

We are abiding by the President's call that was also reiterated by our Premier in capacity building and efficiency.

The call stipulates that:

- We need to make great progress in ensuring that municipalities are equipped with qualified, competent and dedicated personnel at the technical and strategic level of the administration.

The ANC led government has made a commitment never to repeat the mistakes of the past whereby people were appointed based on other reason than the following:

- qualification, competence and passion to build an administration that complies with all legal regulations whilst making a significant change to and in the lives of the masses of our people.

As thus, it is important to emphasize that we are not going to compromise this directive.

Speaker

The District Municipality will like to join MEC for provincial Treasury honorable David Masondo in congratulating Fetakgomo Local Municipality for obtaining Clean Audit.

We also take note and welcome improvements in Greater Tubatse Local Municipality for getting qualified report and hope they will do better in the next audit.

We indeed need to work around the clock to assist ourselves and the rest of the Municipalities in the district towards operation clean audit come 2014.

Working together we can defeat crime and root out corruption

One of the strategic areas of the ANC led Government is the fight against crime and corruption.

The district has seen a significant 28% decline in contact crimes such as murder, sexual crimes, attempted murder, assault, robbery etc

We need to partner with South African Police Service and other social partners in making sure that we uproot and defeat crime in our communities.

As a district, we adopted a zero tolerance on actual or perceived fraud and corruption at all levels of the structures of council.

Speaker, Council has established the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) which has already started doing work within the District.

In our resolve to ensure clean governance, we have directed MPAC to probe alleged maladministration or corruption in various departments within our municipality.

As we reflect on our collective responsibility of ensuring that we assist in reducing the negative AG Reports.

We must continue to join hands in implementing pieces of legislation that provides a fair and sound basis on which to promote ethical integrity.

As can be seen from what I said, the fight against corruption need a far more comprehensive, focused and well informed approach.

We are going to use some of the strategies from provincial and national government in strengthening our capacity to root out corruption.

Compatriots

The District Municipality has adopted what is commonly known as "2025 Strategy". The aim is to accelerate service delivery to our people.

In its resolve maximize and consolidate its service deliver efforts, the Executive Mayor appointed the Technical Advisory Committee to provide ongoing strategic advice.

This 2025 Strategy is provides a platform for comprehensive understanding of the existing challenges faced by the people and outlines programmes of action to deal with them.

Having done a scientific analysis and research on the socio-economic status of our District, government understands the concerns and aspiration of the majority of our people.

And our 2025 Strategy incorporates among others some well crafted and executed actions to locally push back the frontiers of poverty.

We will continue with the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme directed at reviving land reform projects and irrigation schemes in the District.

On that note I am happy to announce that the long awaited Jane Furse Township Development project is on track.

Already we have appointed a team of specialist who will assist us on comprehensive ways of setting up the project.

And an amount of eight million rands (R8million) have been secured to fund the purchase of the more than two thousand hectares (2000htr) of land we earmarked for the development.

Talks between the district and Pedi Mamone Tribal Authority are at an advanced stage pertaining to purchase of the land. And we hope that we will reach common grounds regarding the beneficiation model before the projects commences.

And we are certain in our vision that this project will result in hundreds of thousands sustainable jobs to our people as soon as it hits the ground.

Madam Speaker

We said to ourselves and our people that we have three key economic focus areas. They are:

- Mining;

- Agriculture; and
- Tourism

The fact is that the mineral wealth of our country is a national asset that belongs to all South Africans, with the State as the custodian.

Research shows that South Africa has significant mining assets, currently valued at 2.5 trillion US dollars.

Sekhukhune as a district is endowed with many minerals of significant economic value such as platinum etc

By 2009, the mining industry employed 2.9% of the country's economically active population.

And here in Sekhukhune District Municipality, our people and the mines are not a smooth sailing. Indeed, it is not an easy ride.

During the state of the nation address, President Zuma mentioned that one of the government's priorities this year is finalisation and adoption of mining beneficiation strategy as government policy.

This will help our people to start reaping the full benefits of our commodities.

The current regime of exporting raw materials is not helpful to our people. In the words of honourable MEC Masondo, exporting raw materials is tantamount to exporting jobs.

And allow me to announce that after engagements with mine management, last month during our bimonthly meetings, we finally established what is called:

“Executive Mayor –Mayors and Mines General Managers Development Initiatives Forum”

The Forum has already started doing work which is done through its task teams dealing with all aspects of concerns from the communities.

We are currently exploring discussions within the forum on how it can be inclusive of other social partners such as traditional leaders.

Of significant importance is the alignment of Social Labour plans of mining houses to Integrated Development Plan of the District and its Locals.

Madam Speaker

As part of a long term strategy, we will need to think outside the box in coming with ways and means of empowering our people economically.

Going forward, we will have to explore and investigate the possibility of establishing Industrial Zone in Sekhukhune similar to other massive industrial projects such as the Coega in the Eastern Cape.

(Ke hlatholla gore: ga bjale mananego kgoparara a mmuso wa selete le di mmasepala tsa selegae, re kgona go a beakanya re a bapetsa le mananego a tlabologo a meepo ya rena).

We have already agreed about the conversion of Sekhukhune FET College, Dr CN Phatudi Campus into a Mining College. More details will be released later.

This way, we will solve the problem of shortage of skills as a song sung by those who will not want to barge on employing locals within the mines.

During the recent visit by MEC Pitsi Moloto in the District, we witnessed training taking place in Xstrata and we are aware that mines like Twickenham have training schools for our youth.

We extend this appeal to all the mines to be part of our development of our communities towards the creation of sustainable jobs for our people.

We are also encouraged by the relationship between all involved at the Eastern Limp belt.

We are confident that Xstrata Alloys Magareng Chrome Mine which was recently unveiled by the Premier of our province will contribute to the national figure of employment.

Compatriots

Working Together we can do more to create jobs through agriculture

On agriculture, we will engage vigorously with department f agriculture in ensuring that our local farmers receive adequate support to produce food for our people.

The state of the District farms is in such a way that only a particular sector of the community is in commercial farming, leaving the majority in subsistence farming.

This situation needs a serious turning around and transformation. It can't be that with the abundance of land in the district majority of our people are not ripping the economic spin-offs of agriculture at the expense of the few.

Fellow people of Sekhukhuneland

We reiterate the pleasure expressed by our State President Hon. Jacob Zuma with the tourism sector, mentioning that 16 (sixteen) tourists creates 1 (one) job.

Still in this area more introspection need to come from ourselves involved in the sector. This is because we are told that 7,3 million tourist came to RSA last year.

And being the Mountain Kingdom – Bana ba Thulare - the question is what has been our share value in this investment by the tourist.

Our country also continues to be a popular destination for international tourist and as the District we boost ourselves

with Tšate Heritage Site, Manche Masemola Pilgrimage, Ekholweni la Mantebele Heritage Site, to name but a few.

In addition, the “De Hoop Tourism Master Plan” is completed and stands ready for implementation.

A clarion call is made to all the people, traditional leaders, private sector, NGOs, and government to start actually leveraging opportunities that exist within this sector.

Research has indicated that we can create jobs in the following priority areas. These are infrastructure development, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, and tourism.

Moving forward, one of the key elements that will contribute immensely towards our attainment of our national agenda is the small business sector.

The small business sector is a critical component of the job creation drive.

We will continue to provide financial and non-financial support to small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), small scale agriculture as well as cooperatives.

We need to maximise government resources by collaborating more with agencies and departments responsible for economic development such as SEDA, LIBSA, LIMDEV etc

Working Together we can do more.

Compatriots,

Government is aware of the challenges still facing our people regarding empowerment, but I say the legacy of decades of apartheid underdevelopment and colonial oppression cannot be undone in only 17 years.

The ANC led government is forging ahead, determined to achieve its mission of building a better life for all the people.

Our people have told us how to focus government priorities, and we will comply.

During a radio discussion on Thobela-fm on the 21 February 2011, a caller by the name of Thabo Serage from Maandagshoek asked the Executive Mayor:

“Letamo le tšea batho. Le ka se kgone go dira leporogo, mokhanselara o re nako ya gagwe e ya fela, gomme ga go seo a ka se dirago”.

Ga se Serage fela, dikopanong tša rena le ditšaba tša selete re kwa ka mathata a mabjalo.

Gomme re rata go hlaloša gore, re tseba ditlhohlo ka moka tšeo setšaba se nale go le tšona.

Indeed, we agree that service delivery should move faster. During our interaction with our people as we continuously move from Malebitsa to Sefateng sa Thorometšane, our people are speaking with one voice.

They are consistent in their support for the ANC government and equally in the quest for basic services as entrenched in our constitution.

These are education, health, rural development and agrarian reform, the fight against crime and decent work.

However, we are concerned that unemployment and poverty persist despite the economic growth experienced in our district during the past 10 years.

That is why 2011 have been declared a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth.

We will meaningfully contribute towards harnessing all spin-offs as encompassed within the **New Growth Path** that is set to guide government's work towards a healthy economic state.

All our departments within the municipality will align their programmes with the job creation imperative.

Performance agreements for section 57 employees which will be signed this financial year will have job creation per as one of the key performance indicators.

As part of this job creation drive, I have signed EPWP implementation plan with Minister responsible for Public works as well as Premier of the Province.

In terms of the phase 2 of EPWP targets, our district is expected to create 5559 job opportunities by end of the 2011/2012 financial year.

Working Together we can do more.

Bana ba Thulare,

The year 2011 has been duped by many as 'a crazy year'. Among other reason being the fourth local government elections that will be held on the 18th of May 2011.

The State President and the Premier have already alluded to concerns raised by our people on service delivery.

Like we said earlier, we are aware of the concerns from our communities.

We are pleased to announce that the District's Stake-holders Forum dealing with all logistical needs ahead of the elections is fully operational and effective.

The IEC has already reported low cases of disturbances and we are confident that like before, this year's elections will be a success.

We call upon political parties, traditional leaders, and civil society to encourage people to go an exercise their democratic right by participating in the elections.

We issue a clarion call to our people to go out in their numbers and vote on the 18th may 2011.

Compatriots,

After having successful hosting the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, we extend a word of appreciation to the people of Sekhukhune for having been part of that history.

Again, we have hosted the Mayor's Football tournament with success and once more we call upon our people to take ownership of these sporting events working in partnership with Transnet, we are looking forward to build sport academy.

Our **Executive Mayor Eastern Limp Mines Road Race** continues to be a true testimony of real partnerships with our mines.

Having been successfully hosted last year, we hope this year more resources will be added to lift the standard of this race to higher levels.

Once again, we thank the organisers, participants and officials from our municipalities and the mines for tirelessly contributing to the development of our country.

On arts and culture, we are optimistic that our annual events as we organise continue to empower our people. It is said that 'A nation without culture is a lost nation'.

We continue to call upon our communities to engage with us on matters relating to culture and familiarise themselves with our annual arts and cultural events calendar.

Madam Speaker

The District Municipality wishes to assure both our provincial and national government that we understand the task at hand.

From this 2011 state of the district address everyone is called **to action**. The assignment is how to contribute towards the creation of Job Opportunities.

We are going to local government elections in less than three months, time.

The African National Congress as a visionary party has already set out a program of action informed by the experiences of the past ten years of democratic local government.

Working together we can build better communities through:

- Guided by new Growth Bath and working together with communities, we will place job creation and sustainable livelihood at the centre of our programmes
- Promote more active community participation in local government
- We will use procurement opportunities to benefit cooperatives owned by women, youth and people living with disabilities
- We will need to extend refuse removal service to include rural villages
- We will together with our people deepen local democracy by strengthening our ties with community formations such as ward and street committees,
- Collaborate more with traditional leadership structures to implement rural development programmes

These are but some of the key programmatic areas that will guide our work going forward

In our minds and in our souls, let us pray for peace and prosperity for the people of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Ivory Coast and the rest of the world.

Mogologolo o boletse a re "Šako la hloka thobela ke mojano".

What is happening in those countries effect us all. Therefore, let us draw some lessons from them as a country.

Allow me to conclude with a remark made by our Icon Tata Mandela when he was opening parliament in 1994. He said and I quote:

"We understand it still, that there is no easy road to freedom. We know it well, that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all. Let there be peace for all. Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves".

End quote.

God Bless you and our beloved country,

I Thank You.
Ke a leboga
Baie dankie