

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MORRIS
MATABOGE THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF WATERBERG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE INAUGURAL
COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH AUGUST 2016 AT
THE WDM COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 11H00.**

Madam Speaker,

Mayors from Local Municipalities in the District,

Speakers and Chief Whips

All councilors present,

Former councilors present,

Magoshi a rena led by the Chairperson of the Local House of
Traditional Leaders, Kgoshigadi Taueatsoala,

The Chief Magistrate, Mme Mmathapi Tsheole,

Municipal Manager of Waterberg District Municipality and your
Management Team,

Representative from the Office of The Premier,

Representative from SALGA,

Representative from Coghsta,

Representative from the Provincial Treasury,

Representative from IEC,

Members of the Media,

Members of the Community,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Let me from the outset thank the African National Congress (ANC) for giving us the opportunity and the mandate to provide political leadership in Waterberg District Municipality.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election to this high office. Your election is proof of the confidence that this Council has in your abilities and leadership. The Office of the Speaker is an essential element of our system of democratic local governance. It provides a continuous link between council and the electorate throughout the term of office.

Madam Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the newly elected public representatives of Waterberg to thank the residents of our district for their participation in the election of the 3rd August 2016.

Our best wishes also go to the newly elected Chief Whip of Council who will continue to play a critical role towards the effective functioning of this institution.

Madam Speaker, we are meeting here today during the Women`s Month. A month which has left an indelible mark in the history of our struggle for liberation. The historic significance of August the 9th, National Women`s Day has led to an annual celebration, started and led into a march on the Union Building in 1956 by 20 000 women.

Every year since 1956 the day is celebrated to honour women who led the march to protest against the inclusion of women in the pass laws controlling the movement of black people. The march was coordinated by the Federation of South African Women led by four women: namely Charlotte Maxeke, Hellen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams.

These leaders delivered petitions to the then Prime Minister JG Strydom`s office in the Union Buildings.

Thousands of women throughout the country included their names on these petitions indicating their support against pass laws and expressing their anger and frustration at having their freedom of movement

restricted by the pass laws.

Madam Speaker, the month of August was declared women`s month by the democratically elected government of South Africa led by our glorious movement, the African National Congress following a series of political activism by women during the struggle for liberation against colonialism and apartheid.

Women`s month is a tribute not only to the thousands of women who marched on that day in 1956, but also a tribute to the pioneers of the women`s movement in this country, dating back to 1912, when women like Lillian Ngoyi, led the way in establishing the ANC Women`s League and encouraging women to engage in the struggle for freedom.

Madam Speaker, this year also marks sixteen years of Local Government and the strides we have made in the delivery of services to our people. I want to thank and congratulate the Independent Electoral Commission for its sterling work in organising and running the 2016 local government elections in an effective and professional manner.

I trust that all councillors will join me in thanking the IEC, its board and executive, as well as the Provincial Electoral Officer of Limpopo and all staff members for the way in which the process was conducted.

We are also in agreement as the ANC that we had free and fair elections. We in the ANC are keenly aware that the eradication of poverty, job creation and a better life for all has always been part of our developmental agenda. By virtue of being members of the African National Congress, we are mandated and tasked to advance and deepen our democracy and the delivery of services to our people cannot be compromised.

To all the elected councilors in the district, we say it is time to put our differences aside and unite in the delivery of services to the citizens of the district especially our rural communities. Waterberg deserves only

the best efforts from everybody, whether they are in the political leadership, in management, in all positions within our administration and across the spectrum of our partners in business, Traditional Authorities, Labour, the faith-based organisations, community and civil societies.

Madam Speaker, I want to express, at the outset of my tenure as the Executive Mayor, of my willingness to work together with all political parties and stakeholders. This will enable us to find workable solutions for the diverse range of developmental challenges facing Waterberg as we move towards our vision.

Waterberg is one of the largest and most diverse district in the province, and as the tourism and mining hub of Limpopo Province, it should play a pivotal role in the economic empowerment of our people especially women, the youth and people with disability.

Madam Speaker, we should be able to move with speed to address social transformation. In implementing our IDPs, local economic development should be given maximum attention in order to create jobs for our communities. We pride ourselves of the establishment of the Waterberg Economic Development Agency (WEDA) by our predecessors, this agency will play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, development and job creation in the district.

The National Development Plan (NDP) recognises that our country requires an economy that is more inclusive, more dynamic and in which the benefits of growth are shared equitably. Labour, business, communities and the state must work together to achieve faster inclusive economic growth.

Madam Speaker, South Africa's cities, towns and settlements need to be restructured to reflect the priorities and principles of the democratic government.

The restructuring of the settlement structure and patterns is crucial for sustainable, efficient, equitable and effective service delivery. It is a precondition for maximising the use of scarce resources.

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act of 2013 seek to bridge the racial divide in spatial terms and to transform the settlement patterns of this country in a manner that gives effect to the key constitutional provisions.

SPLUMA provide for municipalities to play their developmental role effectively through the application of directive principles, land use schemes in decision-making with regard to land use and land development, and stipulates that municipalities be the primary land use regulators. We are happy a lot has been processed by the former leadership of this district establishing the District Planning Tribunal to deal specifically with land issues.

Ours is to provide support and enforce monitoring systems in an endeavour to ensure successful implementation of same.

Madam Speaker, we will continue to welcome and seek support from the Offices of the Premier, the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs and SALGA on governance that cuts across all the local government spectrum.

We commit ourselves to providing oversight as a way of strengthening governance structures. We commit ourselves to the reinforcing of our Intergovernmental Relations Forums as a way of strengthening Integrated Development Planning and co-operative governance. As the Speaker alluded to, we will further strengthen our Ward Committee System through capacity building initiatives led by her Office.

Honorable members, we shall vigorously intensify our Public Participation Programme as a strategy to directly ascertain the concerns of our communities in order to be spot in providing give feedback.

This is a system that will determine and enhance the pace in which we need to respond to service delivery challenges as the municipality.

The infection rate for HIV and AIDS in the district continues to be a nightmare which is aggravated by the threat of TB epidemic that has

surfaced, especially the Multi Drug Resistant (MDR).

The Waterberg District tops the list when compared to other districts in the province with regard to HIV/AIDS infections. It is perceived that the cause of this epidemic is mainly attributed by high level of unemployment, increased mining activities and drug abuse in some municipalities in the district.

Madam Speaker, as the incoming leadership we must resuscitate the functionality of the established District AIDS Council which deals specifically with AIDS and TB programmes. We need to vigorously engage on intervention mechanisms that will ensure sustainability of our AIDS Councils (including those in local municipalities) in order to fight strongly against the scourge of this disease.

Madam Speaker, on financial matters, the municipality has been doing well. As the Ambassadors of Clean Audit, we should up our game so that we maintain the status.

What we should start embarking on is to provide support and building capacity to our local municipalities as well. We can't be proud of achieving clean audits as the district whilst some of our locals are still struggling with disclaimers.

We need to work on possibilities of unifying our financial systems but most important getting skilled, experienced and qualified officials for the job.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have every intention to serve the people of Waterberg guided by the vision of the ANC, to create a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa, free of the ills of the injustices of the past.

We want to give the people of Waterberg the assurance that we will not let up in our efforts to help create a better district through the building

of better communities.

We shall vigorously intensify our Public Participation Programme district-wide for us to listen to the concerns of our communities and give feedback.

Madam Speaker, we will continue with the process to refurbish and replace our dilapidated infrastructure network and ensure that all residents have access to quality water, reliable electricity and decent sanitation. These will be done in conjunction with all stakeholders including our local municipalities.

We will address environmental concerns and, together with other spheres of government and the private sector, find solutions on pressing issues. We will do so in the spirit of Batho Pele Principles. Both councilors and management should be working together for quality services delivered to our electorate.

Ladies and gentlemen, expect this leadership to remain focused and introduce measures and programmes to address issues of social exclusion and underdevelopment. We shall continue to pay special attention to programmes that alleviate endemic poverty, widen the net of our expanded social package, address issues related to child-headed households, people with disability and youth in general.

While we continue building on the legacy of success of the outgone leadership of the District Municipality, it is equally true that a changing environment requires a fresh look at the interventions we are to implement. I am confident that we will be up to the task and that will not disappoint the trust placed in us by the people of Waterberg.

Madame Speaker, this meeting marks the beginning of our term of office and the fourth since the inception of local government system after the dawn of democracy.

This period goes along with the strides we made already as the ruling party in delivering quality services to our people.

In order to maintain and sustain service delivery initiatives to our

communities, effective and efficient structures need to put in place especially at the level of leadership.

To assist the Executive Mayor in executing his executive authority and those delegated by council, an experienced, skilled and coherent Committee need to be appointed to enable and assist the Office of the Executive Mayor to find workable solutions for the diverse range of developmental challenges facing the district.

It is therefore my prerogative as the Executive Mayor backed by Section 60 of the local government Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 appoint Members of my Mayoral Committee as follows:

1. Transformation and Administration - MMC F.
Hlongwane
2. Infrastructure Development - MMC R.M.Radebe
3. Social Development - MMC M.R.Boloka
4. Community Services - MMC
N.S.Monyamane
5. Planning and Economic Development - MMC
M.P.Sebatjane
6. Special Projects - MMC
K.R.Mokwena
7. Budget and Treasury - MMC
T.A.Mashamaite.

Madam Speaker, Council should further take note that the positions of ***Infrastructure Development, Budget and Treasury and Planning & Economic Development*** will be full time as per Section 12 Notice gazetted by the MEC responsible for local government in the province.

We are therefore looking forward to enhance our methodologies of continuing to deliver quality services to the community. I wish the new Mayoral Committee all the best during the execution of their daily responsibilities and hope that this will be a greater milestone towards achieving our aspirations to improve the lives the communities we serve.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to also congratulate the former Executive Mayor for having sworn in as Member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. We thank her and her team for laying a solid foundation on Good Governance in the Municipality. We wish her well in her new responsibilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am both mindful and grateful of the confidence shown in me by this council. I also want to thank my political party, the glorious movement for deploying me to this responsibility - this will indeed bear fruit to the people of Waterberg.

The Waterbergers deserve the best from all of us, and together we move Waterberg, Limpopo and South Africa forward.

I THANK YOU.