

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR DURING
THE INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING**

02 DECEMBER 2021

Honourable Speaker Cllr. Reggy Molokomme

His Excellency, Member of the Judiciary Magistrate Yusuf Tayob,

The Chief Whip of Council Cllr. Bernard Monare

His Worship the Mayor of Mogalakwena Cllr. Thulani Taueatsoala

His Worship the Mayor of Lephalale Cllr. Alpheus Thulare

His Worship the Mayor of Thabazimbi Cllr. Tokkie Swanepoel

Her Worship the Mayor of Bela Bela Cllr. Gloria Seleka

His Worship the Mayor of Modimolle Mookgophong Cllr. Marlene van Staden,

Pastor Vincent Raphunga,

Traditional Leaders present...Beng mabu, Maaparankwe,!!

Former Mayors of various municipalities, Speakers and Chief Whips,

Fellow Councillors and Former Councillors,

Leadership of the Glorious Movement, ANC and its Alliance Partners,

Leadership of Political Parties represented in Council,

Representatives of the IEC,

Municipal Managers led by Mr. Preciousstone Raputsoa,

Representatives from both district and provincial departments,

Leaders of SAMWU and IMATU,

The Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Comrades and Compatriots,

THOBELA,

I stand here today to accept the responsibility that Council and the community of Waterberg has bestowed upon me to be the Executive Mayor of this district.

Honourable Speaker, it is befitting that I start my acceptance speech by congratulating you for being elected the Speaker of this Council. Same goes to the Chief Whip and the Chairperson of MPAC.

Your appointments is only an indication that this august house has taken nod of your leadership qualities and shown confidence that you will be able to steer this ship without any disappointments.

Councillors also need to be congratulated for having elected to represent their respective constituencies in this august house.

Honourable Members above all, we have to thank the masses of our district who went all out to cast their votes and registering their voice in decision making processes of this democracy.it was not easy however, eventually their voices were heard.

Let me not forget to thank the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for the sterling work in organising and running the local government elections that are free, fair and credible in such a very short space of time given the circumstances brought by the outbreak of CVID 19.

Political parties deserve a congratulatory word for their participation in the elections and eventually making it for representation in our district and local municipalities. Special words of thanks and appreciation goes to my Organisation, the African National Congress for the trust and privilege of deployment. I am still looking forward for their support and advice throughout the whole term of office.

Honourable Speaker, we meeting today coinciding with the period of “**16 days of activism against the abuse of women and children**” which start on the 25th November to 10th December every year.

The Theme for this 2021 reads thus ***“The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to Accountability”***

Given the scourge of Gender Based Violence in the country, which is declared a national pandemic, Government is implementing an Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide, which was announced by the President.

The campaign forms the centre point of government`s comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

Let us together, be activists against Gender Based Violence in our homes, communities, work and positions. Let us reject and report abusers without looking away. Fellow Comrades, ***Real men don` t abuse...***

Honourable Members, in accepting the position of the Executive Mayor, I did that mindful of the challenges confronting the people of Waterberg which ranges from unemployment, poverty, inequality, corruption and nepotism.

These go hand in glove with poor financial management and inability to implement, monitor and evaluate capital projects in our municipalities, which sometimes end up in money being returned to the National Government.

I must therefore, put it on record that we are more than committed to tackle the bull by its horns in our resolve to deal with these challenges.

We commit that our achievements cannot be measured by the way we speak, but by the vigour we put in our resolve to improve the quality of the lives of the masses that voted for us.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the moment to celebrate, but the moment to gather more strength and drive in preparation to continue in our journey to deliver on our mandate of a better life for all.

We call upon all political parties represented in this august council to come together and work as a collective in order to

attain our goal of accelerating service delivery and improve the conditions of the lives of our people.

The ANC Icon Cde. Oliver Reginald Tambo once said, ***I quote “the past cannot be changed, forgotten, edited or erased. It can only be accepted” close quote.***

It is only befitting that we accept our past mistakes, strategize on improving or redressing same and move forward united as we are.

Honourable Speaker, a lot of work has already being done by our predecessors, ours is to build further on their foundation and steer the ship in the promotion and implementation of the District Development Model. More is already done in strategizing towards the fight against Covid 19 Pandemic, ours is to reinforce the functionality of established structures and strengthen the campaigns in an endeavour to curb this scourge.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is worth noting that without financially viable municipalities, our vision of providing improved quality services to communities will not be realised. We therefore commit before this council today, that we will work towards attaining a clean audit and assist our local municipalities who are still struggling to improve their audit outcomes.

Honourable Speaker, Section 80 (3) (a) of the Municipal Structures Act gives powers to the Executive Mayor to appoint the members of the Mayoral Committee, (b) provide that the Executive Mayor may delegate his powers and duties to the Mayoral Committee Member to act in his absence.

It is therefore my pleasure to appoint Members of the Mayoral Committee as follows:

Full time Members

- a) Infrastructure Development – Cllr. Rosina Masipa
- b) Budget and Treasury – Cllr. Bernard Mangakeng
- c) Planning and Economic Development – Cllr. Jack Maeko
- d) Transformation and administration – Cllr. Thabitha Modise
- e) Social Development – Cllr. Henrietta Ledwaba

Part time Members

- a) Special Projects – Cllr. Matome Taueatsoala
- b) Community Services – Cllr. Cllr. Simon Morumudi

The appointed team will from today begin with their responsibilities in ensuring that they strengthen our working relationships with local municipalities, Traditional Leaders, sector departments, business sector and other social partners and identify areas of common interests for immediate implementation.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, I am forever at ease regarding my leadership as the Executive Mayor and my door is always open to everyone for any engagements.

I am therefore accepting this responsibility with humility and audacity. I pledge to serve you without fear, favour and prejudice and remain the humble servant of the people of Waterberg.

We are always on the go for growth.....

KE A LEBOGA!!!