

**YEAR END MESSAGE BY HIS WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE
MAYOR, CLLR MORRIS MATABOGE COUNCIL MEETING
05 DECEMBER 2019**

WDM COUNCIL CHAMBER,

Madam Speaker, Cllr. Lamola,

Chief Whip, Cllr Tsebe,

*The Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders and
Deputy Chairperson, Kgoshi Kekana and Mahlangu respectively,*

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Chairperson of MPAC, Cllr. Montane,

Honourable Councillors,

Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Adv. Thubakgale,

Senior Managers led by the Municipal Manager,

Representatives from COGHSTA,

Members in the Gallery

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon. Thobela!

Programme Director, the end of 2019 draws near and seems a little strange. The year 2019 was an eventful one. We take pride of the achievements we made as a district, as a province and as a nation. The challenges we faced were surmountable and we managed to deal with more than was expected.

2019 was full of remarkable and proud achievements in many areas of human endeavour. It is the year which marks the 50th centenary of the African National Congress (ANC)'s Morogoro Conference and the 107 of its birthday. This is a historic achievement for our movement, our people, our continent and the world which was preceded by various activities both in political circles and in government.

These centenaries seeks to celebrate our proud traditions, values and principles that earned our movement a permanent place in the hearts and soul of both dimensions, for example mass mobilisation, the underground, armed struggle and international solidarity.

It is also used to acknowledge the contribution made by our former leaders including John Langalibalele Dube, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho, Zacharias Richard Mahabane, Josiah Tshangana Gumede, Pixley ka Isaka Seme, Alfred Xuma, J.S. Moroka, Albert Luthuli, Oliver Reginald Tambo, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma and the sitting President Cyril Ramaphosa.

2019 is also a year which marks the third anniversary of the current political term of office for municipalities which translates that less than two years is remaining to end the term.

This therefore calls for a self-assessment to examine whether we were able to execute our responsibilities as mandated by our electorate when voted into office.

We need to conduct an introspection and take stock to determine and measure our performance for the past three years. We are now approaching the final minute of a rough game which ideally should be coming to an end with many goals in our favour.

Honourable members, we are in a period that urges us to spread the message of love and peace to our neighbours and those who may disagree with us either politically or ideologically.

As the Waterberg District Municipality we are also committed to the fulfilment of the legacy built by Presidents, Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Jacob Zuma and Cyril Ramaphosa in defining the priorities of government which include fighting poverty, creating jobs and growing the economy.

In this regard it is important to recall that President Cyril Ramaphosa was in the District a week ago launching the District Development Model which seeks to ensure that we bring to life the aspirations of “**the people shall govern**”. Bring government closer to the people through the district with the support of provincial and national government, so as to enhance development and cooperative governance at all spheres and deliver Cohesive, Vibrant and Safe Communities.

This is indeed one initiative which turned 2019 to be a remarkable year in Waterberg. More than ten thousand Waterbergers witnessed the official launch of this magnificent model by the President. We are hopeful that if implemented perfectly, the model will bring back life to our district.

Madam. Speaker, I want to reflect on some of the district`s highlights for 2019 which were achieved with aplomb and include:

- Purchasing of the state of the art fire fighting vehicles and equipment in order to equal any fire threat that may arise.
- Resuscitation of the district`s IGR structures through a successful IGR Summit and,
- Establishment of the District and Local Aids Councils,

Of most important Honourable Members, a little bird from the Office of the Auditor General sang into my ear that we were able to improve our audit status by obtaining an Unqualified Audit Opinion for the 2018/19 Financial Year.

We need to congratulate ourselves for this tremendous improvement with full confident and expectations of a Clean Audit next year.

Madam Speaker, We therefore take this opportunity to convey special thanks to all Councillors, the Municipal Manager Mr Maluleka, the then Acting Chief Financial Officer Mr. Hoffman, Management, the entire staff and not forgetting the community of Waterberg for the sterling work done in putting us on the map again.

Let me take this opportunity to thank this council for your wisdom, cooperation, support and leadership you provided throughout the year. I also want to thank our opposition parties for the team work, tolerance, cooperation and support they displayed, please keep up the sterling work.

I also want to appreciate the confidence and support demonstrated by the community of Waterberg District to this council through stakeholder engagement activities that we conducted throughout the year.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to wish my fellow Councillors, Management and Staff of the Waterberg District Municipality a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. We also thank those in essential services for remaining on duty during this time. Let us cooperate with them to ensure a safer festive season.

To those of you who will be travelling to various holiday destinations, please drive safe and Arrive Alive. Let us use the festive break to renew our commitment to this great district and its community.

May 2020 be used to build on the good record we have established and usher new thinking and vision of purpose in delivering services to our people.

I THANK YOU