

INAUGURATION OF NEW COUNCIL

Mojalefa Mokhuamathe

During the inauguration for the new Council held at Theunissen town hall, Mayor Stephen Kunatu Koalane was again elected to lead Masilonyana Local Municipality. Cllr. Senki John Mabitla is now the Speaker of Masilonyana replacing Me. Mamokete Lekaota, and Cllr. Dimakatso Elizabeth Modise is the new Chief-whip also replacing Mr. Gapane Abram Makekema.

Hon. Koalane accepted Mayoral position on presence of MEC for Cooperatives Governance and Traditional Affairs Me. Mamiki Qabathe, and Regional Executive Committee and Conveyor for Masilonyana, Cde. Madika.

“All of us as Councillors we have just took an oath and pledge our loyalty to serve our community which renewed our mandate and therefore ‘people have spoken by way of voting the ANC in power again and we will serve everybody irrespective of whomever one has voted for. However democracy is being strengthening and was protected, preserved and defended by your precious vote”, said Koalane during his acceptance speech.

He further said that Council must start to implement, as people are waiting and testing their patience is not what they want to experience. “To my fellow Councillors, interacting with your constituencies all the times it’s a right thing to do, when funding is available to implement a particular projects let’s do so, but if there isn’t funding, telling the community the facts and truth would cause no harm to anyone”, said Mayor.

In this financial year, Mayor said that Masilonyana municipality will endeavour to create more decent jobs and through EPWP, and that they will not be subjected to any pressure of any kind to serve as a vehicle for job entitlement for any individual but through a right to employment to everyone that simply means recruitment policy and procedures will always be maintained.

Projects such as; installation of water reticulation in extension 3 in Brandfort; rapid establishment of new settlement in Verkeerdevlei by vacating people in that informal settlement to vacant derelict sites; completion of outstanding bucket eradication and dehumanizing sewer spillage; and road constructions across Masilonyana towns, Mayor said that they will accelerate to deliver in those cases.

“For a change, there is going to be a person in charge in the office of the Mayor about community grievances and deal with their problems within seven days. Very soon we will be convening Mayoral Lekgotla in form of information sharing regarding progress made in as far as broader services delivery is concerned, challenges and plans in place”, he said.

There were laxity of Masilonyana management to separate petty labour issues with mayor issues which led to litigation between the municipality and union. “When unpacking the composition of municipality, municipality comprises of council, workers and the community, it is therefore vivid and clear that when either one of components disintegrates we will no longer have fully functional local governance but each component would be like “crying in the wilderness” resulting itself annihilation of legitimate legal entity termed municipality in a particular jurisdiction, in our case been Masilonyana”, said Koalane.

“I would thank the ANC for vesting its trust on numerous occasions for once again giving me an opportunity to complete what we all started. To our community, we commit ourselves to now do things differently, we are your servants. The congratulatory support I received from the community was overwhelming, thank you, I appreciate it”, he said.