

**THE INAUGURAL SPEECH BY: MAYOR OF MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
CLLR. S. K KOALANE DURING SPECIAL COUNCIL SITTING FOR INAUGURATION
PROCESS AT THEUNISSEN TOWN HALL ON THE 06 JUNE 2018**

Honourable Speaker, Cllr. D.E Modise

Honourable Chief-Whip, Cllr. P.E Mabitla

The Municipal Manager, Mr. P. Tsekedi

The Administrator, Mr. S. Kau

Honourable Councillors

The leadership of the ANC and the Alliance

All stakeholders and

Fellow residents

Thank you, Madam Speaker and all Councilors for this opportunity to address the august Council Sitting and fellow residents during this year of the commemoration of the centenary of the lives of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. This year and this month in particular we also commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprisings.

These selfless patriots dedicated his entire adult lives to a tireless pursuit of the liberation of our country and its people. They left a lasting legacy for all, and not only for their organization, the African National Congress (ANC), but all South Africans.

Honourable Speaker, as we honour these benevolent giants of our struggle, I wish to express my gratitude with this brief Programme of Action of the current 4th administration from the achievements of the 3rd administration which ended its term in August 2016.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<i>The Corporate State of the Municipality.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 By-Laws were promulgated during the third administration. However, the current administration must introduce tariffs. • More than 21 HR policies and other policies including ICT policies were approved by council although they need to be reviewed in this fourth administration. • Law Enforcement and Security divisions were established in the municipality and we will be strengthening them. • Measures will be put in place to reduce the rate of litigations against the municipality, especially against those creditors that are attaching the municipal bank account.
<i>Creating jobs is a priority for municipality.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of interventions such as EPWP, CWP Community Work Programme, Greenworx Programme, National Youth Service and Khulanonke were introduced to create jobs. • Together with various government departments we will strive to sustain and strengthen these job creating initiatives. • At the centre of our national agenda in 2018 is the creation of jobs, especially for the youth. • We will make a major push this year to encourage significant new investment in our economy. • We will also rally behind both national and provincial governments drive i.e. Youth Employment Service to place unemployed youth in paid internships to advance the economy. • We will revisit the Memorandum of Agreement between the Municipality and the NYDA and together establish a Youth Service Office in Verkeerdevlei.
<i>Municipal economic initiatives must bear fruits.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use our preferential procurement to develop a new generation of black and women entrepreneurs with capability. • We will improve our capacity to support local and black SMMEs and use competition policies to decisively deal with companies that resist transformation. • More youth cooperatives will be established and be introduced into economic activities through

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	<p>programmes such as CIS (Cooperative Incentive Scheme).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will establish Ward Based Cooperatives and build their capacity by introducing a Localisation Programme to address 30 percent set asides. • We will work with our social partners to build a small business support ecosystem that assists, nourishes and promotes entrepreneurs. • As a sphere of government will honour its undertaking to set aside at least 30 percent of municipal procurement to SMMEs, cooperatives and township and rural enterprises. • We will support the LED department to fortify institutional capacity. • Current and existing cooperatives and enterprises that are manufacturing clothing and textile will be supported through procurement of municipal PPE or uniform. • More support will be sourced for the Verkeerdevlei bakery. • In addition to a Youth Container Park in Majwemasweu which was established by Free State Provincial Government in partnership with Transnet, another model of a Container Park will be established in Masilo by the Municipality in partnership with Harmony Gold.
<p><i>Our interventions in education changed lives.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is key to break the cycle of poverty. • Two IT graduates from Masilonyana were sent to Madeira in Portugal to further their studies and six students were sent to Cuba to study medicine by the Free State Government. • Equally, the second and the third administrations produced eight graduates in amongst others, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Media Studies, Geology and B Com. • On dates that will be communicated, the Office of the Mayor will conduct one on one these graduates. • During the previous administration there were various employee skills empowerment programmes rolled out through WSP.

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<p><i>Mining remains an important part of our local economy.</i></p>	<p>We need to see mining as a sunrise industry with limitless potential to create jobs and boost economic growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are determined to work with mining companies and communities to create jobs and set the industry on a new path of transformation and sustainability. • The Municipality has and will continue to participate in engagements with all stakeholders on the Mining Charter to ensure that it is truly an effective instrument to sustainably transform the face of mining. • We will continue to work with mining companies on Social and Labour Plans (SLPs) and use the allocations for the next five year SLP Cycle towards water and sewer reticulation programmes in new settlements like Tshepong in Verkeerdevlei and Slovo Park in Brandfort; and as well as for paving of streets.
<p><i>Land Expropriation without Compensation and Agriculture remains a priority for government.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture is by far the second largest sector in the Municipality and therefore it presents one of the greatest opportunities to significantly grow our economy and create jobs. • We are resolute in our support of government that expropriation of land without compensation should be implemented in a way that increases agricultural production, improves food security and ensure that the land is returned to those from whom it was taken under colonialism and apartheid. • A credible audit of municipal land and properties will be conducted to ensure land allocation for residential purposes and agricultural production. • Policies and methodologies will be developed for this purpose. • Illegal land grabs be fought with the full might of the law and those are occupying land illegally will be evicted.
<p><i>We are committed to improving basic service delivery and infrastructure development.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill sites were upgraded in Theunissen and Winburg. • The upgrading of a landfill site in Brandfort will be implemented in the financial year. • We will revisit our infrastructure spending to complete the Makeleketla and Majwemasweu Sports Centres the Localisation Programme (local SMMEs and Corps).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equally, steps will be taken against those that will interfere with service delivery infrastructure projects. • We will develop and adhere to long term infrastructure and maintenance plans. • In the next coming weeks we will be engaging the local mining companies in order to resuscitate the Z.R Mahabane Brick and Paving Manufacturing Project. • Paving of our roads will be done through off-takes from Z.R Mahabane Project. • Measures will be put in place to ensure that we are responsive local government. This means improving our turn around period of responding to reported complaints. • Over a long term we will consider and establish a Customer Care call Centre.
<p><i>Council remains committed to sound financial management.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures will be put in place to improve on cash flow management. • This means reducing outstanding municipal debts and creditors list. • More will be done to keep up with the escalating Eskom, Bulk Water and third party debts. • Stringent credit control measures will be in place through the review of our Credit Control Policy. • This current administration will seek to improve municipal audit opinion and target clean audit.

Conclusion

The public is responding positively to President Ramaphosa’s morning walks, therefore more such events can be undertaken to informal settlements to fast-track service delivery interventions to instil hope and promote social activism aimed at cultivating a positive environment.

Equally, The National Imbizo Focus Week is upon us and therefore I call upon the community of Masilonyana to *“Be the legacy”* as I say #ThumaMina, #SendMe. I will be holding Imbizos aimed at deepening the renewal project and rebuilding public confidence, join us as we chart a new course for our community. Together we can bring about a spirit of hope and renewal.

Let us live Mandela’s legacy in everything we do.