

MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY BUDGET SPEECH 2016/2017



Budget Speech by: Kunatu Stephen Koalane, Honourable Mayor of Masilonyana Local Municipality on the occasion of the Ordinary Council Sitting, 30th June 2016, Brandfort Town Hall, at 12h00.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chief-whip,

Fellow Councillors,

Municipal Manager and the Management Team,

Leaders of all political parties,

Leaders of faith-based organisations, traditional formations, sports organisations and other sectors.

Distinguished guests and

Members of the community and fellow South Africans,

Molweni, dumelang, good day and goeie dag!

Honourable Speaker, today we are privileged to have the opportunity to present to the people of Masilonyana and the province on the state of municipal address on this occasion of the adoption of the 2016/17 municipal Budget and municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

This address takes place in the year that marks the 26th anniversary of the release of His Excellency, late President Nelson Mandela from prison, which was one of the most remarkable episodes in the history of our country and as well as the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the Constitution of the Republic.

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the Women's March to the Union Buildings in 1956. We pay tribute to one, Mme. Mantiti Wilhemina Thahane, from Winburg who passed away on the 12th May 2016, as one of the heroic women who participated in this historic march of 1956.

During this month of June 2016, our country marked a 40 year commemoration of the 1976 June 16 student uprising. These are important milestone events in the evolution of our country.

“Re a Hlasela – We have delivered!”

Special Programmes; Youth Development and Skills Development

Fellow Compatriots,

In 2009 government introduced an HIV policy turnaround which led to a massive roll-out of HIV testing and treatment for 3,2 million people living with the virus. These policy reforms contributed immensely to healthier and longer lives for those infected.

Subsequently we welcome an announcement made earlier this month by the Minister of Health that ARV (anti-retroviral) Treatment will now be made available for all HIV diagnosed patients irrespective of their CD4 counts.

Following a successful hosting of a high plenary meeting of the Provincial Council on Aids which was convened by the Premier on the 11th May 2016, we wish to commend contributions made by the past and present members of Masilonyana Aids Council. However, we acknowledge that more needs to be done to revive the Aids Council and to roll out prevention campaigns especially amongst the youth.

We also wish to encourage our communities to participate in the engagements with the National Health Insurance (NHI) White Paper released in December 2015.

Youth Development and Skills Development

In June 2013, LGSETA funded a Law Enforcement Program for Five (5) unemployed youths from the municipality. The aim of the program was to assist the municipality in the enforcement of By-laws and to enhance municipal revenue. These learners underwent a 12 months training at Matjhabeng Traffic Academy and were absorbed by the municipality.

The National Department of Water and Environmental Affairs initiated a program on Youth Jobs in Waste – Green Worx Program. The purpose of the program was to create youth jobs through waste management and recycling. Theunissen landfill site was identified by the department for this program and 18 young people from both Theunissen and Winburg were recruited to participate in the program.

A Khulanonke – Water and Waste Water Process Control Program is a national program initiated by the National Department of Water Affairs. Its purpose is to assist municipalities in improving their blue drop and green status through training of young unemployed skilled people in water and waste water process controlling. 10 young people Masilonyana were recruited by Aurecon which was an implementing agent.

National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) is another program initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development aimed at enhancing skills development by providing unemployed rural youth with opportunities to work in their communities and to provide necessary services for local socio-economic development.

Free State Youth Environmental Service – this is another youth targeting program by the Department of Environmental Affairs who appointed a service provider by the name of Mashalaba Consulting for the implementation and recruitment of 35 beneficiaries across the municipality.

50 young people in Winburg were given an opportunity of acquiring driver's licences through the learner driver programme by the Provincial Department of Police, Roads and Transport as part of the commitments made by the Premier during the Operation Hlasela visit in Winburg

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

Honourable Speaker, our economy has been facing difficulties since the financial crisis in 2008. A resilient and fast growing economy is at the heart of our radical economic transformation agenda and our National Development Plan (NDP).

Theunissen together with three other towns has been identified for rezoning for the establishment of Solar Parks project. This project will create at least 700 job opportunities during the construction and operational phases.

Since its implementation in 2012 as a vehicle to fight the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), has created 457 jobs with a budget allocation of more than R3,6 million.

In addition to that there were other infrastructure development projects such as the Upgrading of Theunissen Landfill Site which recruited labour through the EPWP labour intensive model. This project created 134 jobs.

In consideration of the critical role that EPWP plays in alleviating poverty amongst communities, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has taken a decision to extend the duration of all the current Cash for Waste Projects and Cemetery Maintenance Projects in Brandfort and Verkeerdvlei respectively. The continuation period will be until March 2017.

Community Work Program (CWP) is another government safety net initiative targeting the most vulnerable communities. It intends to respond to the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality as outlined in the New Growth Path and the National Development Plan. The municipality has been allocated 500 beneficiaries for the implementation of the first phase of CWP.

The Department of Environmental Affairs identified and will be piloting different biodiversity projects wherein infrastructure development related deliverables shall be funded through the Department's Expanded Public Works Programme. Among the pilot projects that have been considered for funding, Sepelong Game Reserve in Theunissen has been allocated an amount to the value of R5 800 000.00 in the 2016/17 and 2018/19 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

The planning and implementation of the project shall be managed through the Department's Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes which will employ labour intensive methods in the delivery of the required project deliverables.

On the 31st May 2016, Council considered the revised Supply Chain Policy to be approved in today's Council Sitting to make provision for 30% of the total value of each project to benefit local SMMEs. The Municipal Manager will enter into an agreement with the main contractor and the sub-contractor wherein the sub-contractor will be paid directly into their accounts by the municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

Our investment in targeting youth unemployment will continue to focus on training and skills development.

This municipality is plagued by high unemployment and illiteracy rates particularly amongst the youth. Youth unemployment rate is at 49,8%. It is for this reason that my office approached Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) to initiate a Skills Development Training Programme and they have committed to training over 1000 learners from Masilonyana in amongst others: Brick Laying, Plumbing, Tiling, Plastering, Earthmoving Equipment Operators, Electrical Work, Concrete Work, Paving, Roofing and Scaffold Erection.

Training will be offered in the following disciplines: 6 months Short Learning Course, 12 months Learnership Programmes and 36 months Internship Programmes.

Together with CETA, Services SETA NYDA and the Department of Labour we held a successful Youth Career Exhibition Day on the 17th June 2016 which showcased various services offered by participating stakeholders. It is envisaged that the programme will be launched in the second week of July 2016 with its training centre situated in Brandfort.

During this term of office the municipality has managed to empower and enter into 3 year contracts with 11 local Small, Medium, Micro and Enterprises (SMMEs) and Cooperatives for the following services:

- **Renovation of municipal offices,**
- **Repairs and maintenance of electricity,**
- **Supply and delivery of stationery,**
- **Supply and delivery of cleaning material,**
- **Supply and delivery of road patching material,**
- **Repairs and maintenance of municipal vehicles,**
- **Supply and delivery of building material and Provision of transport.**

“Re a Hlasela – We have delivered!”

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Honourable Councillors,

All the landfill sites within the Municipality are licensed and business plans will be developed for the upgrading of these landfill sites.

However, the National Department of Environmental Affairs allocated the municipality R14 million for the upgrading of both Theunissen and Winburg Landfill Sites. Each landfill site was allocated R7 million.

The project for the upgrading of Theunissen Landfill Site is at a completion stage and 134 jobs were created through EPWP.

A contractor for the Winburg Landfill site has been appointed and phase 1 (planning stage) has been completed. It is anticipated that phase 2 (construction stage) will commence in the new financial year.

A construction of Tshepong Library in Verkeerdevlei is 99% complete and what is outstanding is the installation of solar panels for solar energy generation.

The functions of library services were taken over by the Provincial Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation as of May 2014 and as a result 13 of our library personnel were absorbed by the department.

A project for the construction of Ikgomotseng Library is 68%. A new contractor for the completion of the project has been appointed and is currently on site.

A Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) Tribunal Committee has been established and this committee will be responsible for the implementation of SPLUMA and Spatial Development Framework (SDF).

Township Establishment was approved for 98 residential sites in Ikgomotseng/Soutpan and for 312 residential sites and 5 public sites in Tshepong/Verkeerdevlei. Site numbers have since been allocated to beneficiaries in informal settlements in both towns and to beneficiaries according to the Beneficiary Management List.

The Winburg Township Establishment is at an approval stage. Layout plans are being finalised for approval by the Free State Land Use Advisory Board and for the final approval by the Surveyor General.

Both the Brandfort and Theunissen Township Establishments processes are being handled through the SLPUMA processes and are at application stages. It is envisaged that this stage will take about 4 months for approval by the SLUMA Tribunal Committee.

During the 2010/11 financial year the Municipality was allocated 1022 houses for Brandfort, Theunissen and Winburg. 704 houses of the allocated 1022 have been completed.

The municipality also received an allocation of 101 houses for the demolition of old two room houses in Ikgomotseng/Soutpan and so far 24 houses have been completed.

Honourable Speaker,

Over the years and since the beginning of the democratic local government, this ANC led municipality has eradicated a total of 10 385 buckets across Masilonyana. 4677 of these buckets have been eradicated in Theunissen, 2315 in Brandfort, 2441 in Winburg, Verkeerdevlei 552 and Soutpan 400. **The Department of Water and Sanitation will still**

complete the incomplete Rapid Bucket Eradication Programmes (RBEP) which was implemented by Babereki Consulting in Masilo and Makeleketla.

During this current term of local government we have built a 1,2km paving road in Ward 7, Masilo at a cost of R9 million and upgraded 0.892km gravel road to pave in Ward 4, Makeleketla through Township Revitalization Programme as part of the Operation Hlasela at a cost of R7 million.

Compatriots, as we are aware, five provinces including the Free State have been seriously affected by drought,

Let me take this opportunity to commend the civil society initiative by Adcock Ingrams and the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Pam Tshwete, for the provision of 37 500 litres of water relief to the distressed community of Makeleketla during her visit in March this year.

However, the building of water infrastructure remains critical so that we can continue to expand access for our people.

Fellow Councillors,

We pride ourselves with the successful implementation of our infrastructure development strategies and plans such as the IDP, the Infrastructure Master Plan and strategic documents developed from our strategic sessions.

After hosting a successful Water Summit in Brandfort in 2012, two bulk raw water projects were initiated in Brandfort and Winburg to mitigate serious water supply challenges which were experienced by the communities in those two towns.

The Construction of Bulk Raw Water Pipeline from Sandvet Canal to Brandfort for R82 785 382.13 is at a completion stage. Currently the contractor is busy with the installation of electricity infrastructure so that the line can start supplying water to the community of Brandfort/Majwemasweu.

Winburg derives its raw water from three dams namely, Rietfontein Dam, Wolvas 1 and Wolvas 2. During dry seasons, particularly in winter the Dams are often affected by drought. Hence a construction of Bulk Raw Water Pipeline to Winburg was initiated. This project will commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

A feasibility study was conducted and the following option was considered for the implementation of the project:

- Sedibeng Water to provide potable water directly to the storage reservoirs in Winburg, eliminating the burden of operation and maintenance by the municipality.

The department has allocated R32 million for 2016/2017 financial year. The total cost estimates of the project is approximately R75 million.

Honourable Speaker and fellow Councillors,

Our municipality has delivered and during the current local government term we have made a substantial progress in the expansion of basic services. The percentage of households with access to basic services has increased; however, we still remain highly critical of ourselves because we know a lot still needs to be done.

This significant progress is illustrated in the below service delivery implementation report:

Completed Projects:

- Upgrading of Theunissen Water Treatment Works (Pump Station Phase 1) for R6 546 122.00.
- Refurbishment of Theunissen Waste Water Treatment Works for R2,8 million.
- Upgrading of Winburg Waste Water Treatment Works for R14,5 million – the project is complete but plant is not fully operational. Department of Water Sanitation has committed to complete the outstanding works so that the plant can be fully operational.
- Refurbishment of Winburg Sewer Pump Station no. 2 for R1.5 million. The project was funded through ACIP (Accelerated Community Infrastructure Projects).
- Refurbishment of filters at Brandfort Water Treatment Works for R1,8 million.
- Upgrading of Brandfort Water Treatment Plant, (phase 1) for R13,1 million.
- Replacement and installation of 22 Water Air Valves on the existing raw water pipeline to Brandfort for R6 million.
- Construction and equipping of three (3) Boreholes to augment water supply in Winburg for R4 million.
- Construction and equipping of four (4) Boreholes to augment water supply in Brandfort for R5,9 million.
- R7,5 million was spent for replacement of asbestos pipes and installation of isolation valves in the water reticulation network in Winburg/Makeleketla.
- Fencing of Winburg Water Treatment Works for R2,1 million.
- Fencing of Winburg Reservoir for R2 million.
- Fencing of Makeleketla Cemetery by Lejweleputswa District Municipality for R1 million.

- Fencing of Phahameng Cemetery in Masilo and building of Ablution Facilities for R4 million.
- Fencing of Theunissen/Masilo Reservoir for R1,1 million.
- Fencing of Brandfort reservoir for R1,2 million.
- Fencing of Majwemasweu Cemetery for R2.2 million.
- Fencing of Ikgomotseng Cemetery for R1,9 million.
- Fencing of Soutpan Oxidation Ponds for R1,8 million.

Honourable Councilors,

Our municipality has faced challenges but our positives far outweigh our challenges. The municipality has procured 2 Graders and 1 cherry picker to address issues that relates to accessibility of roads, repairs and maintenance of streetlights.

This highlights that “Re a Hlasela - Indeed we have delivered!”

On-going Projects:

- Construction of Winburg Sports Centre for R8 million – the contractor’s contract has been terminated and currently the consultant has taken over the completion of the project however, more funds are needed to complete the project. The municipality has engaged the Department of Public Works to fund the completion of the outstanding work.
- Upgrading of Soutpan Water Treatment works for R15 million – the project is at a completion stage and it’s 98 percent complete.
- Construction of Majwemasweu Multi-purpose Sports Centre R21 million – project is 96 percent complete.
- Construction of a 3,5 kilometer Storm Water Channel in Masilo for R5 million.
- Refurbishment of Concrete Pressure Towers in Theunissen/Masilo R5 million – 85 percent complete.
- **Construction of Community hall in Soutpan – funds exhausted.**

Future Projects:

- Construction of 1km paving road in Masilo (Phase II) for R5,4 million – project is on tender for the appointment of a contractor.
- Upgrading of Old Masilo Sports Ground – project is to be implemented in 2018/19 financial year.
- Upgrading of Oxidation Ponds in Verkeerdevlei for R4 million – project is to be implemented in the 2018/19 financial year.
- Fencing of Community Cemetery and construction of ablution facility in Majwemasweu for R3 million – project is to be implemented in 2016/17 financial year.
- Construction of 1km block pave road in Brandfort for R5,4 million – the project will be implemented in the next financial year.
- Construction of 2km storm water channel in Brandfort for R3 million – project is on tender for appointment of consultant.
- Construction of 2km storm water channel for R3 million – project is on tender for appointment of consultant.
- Construction of 1.5km stormwater channel in Winburg for R3 million – project is to be implemented in the 2017/18 financial year.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Honourable Councillors,

The Organizational Structure of the municipality was revised and approved by Council on the 1st October 2014. The structure was realigned for strategic execution. Due to the total number of approved posts i.e. is 938 which then created a high vacancy rate, the Council resolved in 2015 that the structure must be reviewed without compromising service delivery.

Salary disparities have been addressed and job descriptions have been developed. A process to get all job descriptions signed has been done.

A total of 21 HR – Human Resource policies were developed and approved by Council in July 2014. A municipal HR manual has been developed which we will be utilised as our tool to

induct new employees. We will also conduct policy workshops for all employees on an annual basis.

The Workplace Skills Plan was developed and submitted to LGSETA on the 30th April 2016 in order to address identified skills gaps. In 2015 13 bursaries were approved to qualifying employees to study at institutions of higher learning such as FETs and Universities. The total budget allocation for this program is R200, 000.00 per annum. I once again wish to challenge our employees to take advantage of such opportunities.

Skills Development

The following training initiatives have been undertaken for this financial year:

- ❖ Municipal Finance Management Programme (MFMP): 20 employees including 3 Senior Managers have completed the programme and 7 employees are still attending classes.
- ❖ Water & Waste Water Treatment Operations (WWWTO): initially 36 employees were attending classes however only 34 have completed the course and 2 have dropped out.
- ❖ Adult Basic Education & Training (ABET): out of 56 employees that were attending classes only 39 wrote the exams.

LGSETA has funded the following Learnerships and Skills Programmes which are facilitated by Central University of Technology:

- Municipal Finance Management Programme: 12 employees
- National Certificate : IDP 3 employees
- National Certificate : LED 3 employee
- National Diploma Public Finance Management and Administration: 5 employees

Local Labour Forum meetings are being held regularly. Workshop on disciplinary code was conducted with Managers and Supervisors to enhance discipline in the municipality.

Management has been holding regular staff meetings with the work force to inform them of issues that are directly applicable to them and these engagements will continue to take place even in future.

Legal Services Division conducted employee workshops in order to mitigate the negative implications caused by Garnishee Orders against them. The workshops also sought to empower them on how to defend themselves against such litigations.

After extensive Public Participation processes Council is proud to announce that we have adopted and promulgated 44 By-Laws.

After a review of 65 Service Level Agreements, 24 of them were found to be high risk agreements for the Municipality and were terminated, 5 were found to be high to medium risk and 36 were found to be low risk agreements. The Legal Service Division has been working hand in hand with Supply Chain Management Division to review future Service Level Agreements. This will provide the SCM division with templates for all the SLAs to be concluded on behalf of the Municipality and the service providers. Moving forward no

agreement will be prepared by service providers on behalf of the Municipality unless per-agreement.

On Health and Safety, I am proud to announce that medical surveillance on employees is performed regularly as per legislative requirements and employees are issued with protective clothing as per the legislative requirements.

We have made strides to improve on our Information Technology (IT). I can announce that we have developed and approved seventeen (17) IT policies to enable us to manage our IT effectively. We have procured a new a server and it has been installed. In order to improve our Internet Network and Internet Speed we have increased our IT budget to R2,3 million.

We have established a Fleet Management Unit that will manage our fleet. This has been done to ensure proper maintenance and utilization of our fleet. The unit is also tasked to concentrate on the misuse of our fleet. A Fleet Management Policy has been approved by Council and a Fleet Management Plan was also developed to give guidance over the control of municipal fleet.

A records management unit has been established with the purpose of ensuring proper control, maintenance and safekeeping of institutional records in line with archive prescriptive.

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Honourable Speaker,

More than ever, the year 2016 presents us with the opportunity to practice serious fiscal discipline without compromising service delivery but necessitated by a shrinking municipal revenue streams. This must be done whilst we also explore and support initiatives that will stimulate the municipal economy.

The total municipal operating and capital budget is estimated to be R250,6 million. Operating expenditure has been projected at R228 million, a decline of 8% from R247 million. The Municipality's capital expenditure amounts to R22,5 million fully funded from grants and is a decline of 33%. This is supported with a revenue base of R 250 million. The municipality is experiencing cash-flow challenges that will have a direct impact on the budget of the municipality. But as a mitigation strategy, the municipality has adopted a revenue enhancement strategy that will be radically implemented to improve revenue.

The municipality's revenue strategy is built around the following key components:

- National Treasury's guidelines and macroeconomic policy;
- Growth in the municipal area and continued economic development;
- Efficient revenue management, which aims to ensure a 65% annual collection rate for property rates and other key service charges;
- Electricity tariff increases of 7,64% still to be approved by the NERSA
- The Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004 (MPRA);
- Impact of the municipal demarcations, the demarcations of Soutpan into Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality;
- Increase ability to extend new services and recover costs;
- The municipality's Indigent Policy and rendering of free basic services; and

- Tariff policies for the municipality.
- Disposal of land and other property owned by the municipality that does not generate revenue

Tariff-setting is a pivotal and strategic part of the compilation of any budget. When rates, tariffs and other charges were revised local economic conditions, the wage agreements with unions, other input costs of services provided by the municipality, the municipality's indigent policy and the affordability of services were taken into account to ensure the financial sustainability of the Municipality.

The percentage increases of both Eskom and Water Boards bulk tariffs are beyond the South African Reserve Bank inflation target. Given that these tariff increases are determined by external agencies, the impacts they have on the municipality are largely outside the control of the municipality. The Eskom price increase of bulk electricity supplied to municipalities will increase by 9,4% on 01 July 2016, subject to National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) approval. It must also be appreciated that the consumer price index, as measured by CPI, is not a good measure of the cost increases of goods and services relevant to municipalities.

The basket of goods and services utilised for the calculation of the CPIX consist of items such as food, petrol and medical services, whereas the cost drivers of a municipality are informed by items such as the cost of remuneration, bulk purchases of electricity and water, petrol, diesel, materials and chemicals.

The municipality has increased its tariffs based on the CPI which 6.6% on all services except for electricity which will be increased by 9.4% on the bulk purchases and on 7.64% on consumer tariff

In its 2015/2016 budget, Council approved a decrease of 41% on property rates tariff of the properties owned by farms or agricultural properties. Council took this decision after taking into consideration the property values that has increased dramatically. We have increased the tariff by 6.6% for this financial year (2016/2017).

The municipality acknowledges feedback from the community with regards to implementation of valuation roll. We thank all the community members who have participated in the valuation process. We also appreciate those that have been paying their property rates despite the challenges. Although there's a perception that the valuation roll of the municipality is illegal, we want to assure you that the valuation roll that was implemented this year (2015/2016) was fully compliant with MPRA.

Municipal grants for the 2016/17 financial year are as follows:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	COMPONENT	FINANCIAL PERIOD
Equitable Share	R83 362 000	This is an unconditional grant which is meant to subsidise the	2016-2017

		poor and council support	
Municipal Finance Management Grant (MFMG)	R1 825 000	This is a conditional grant, which is aimed at improving Finance management within the municipality	2016-2017
Energy Efficiency Demand Site Management (EEDSM)	R6 000 000	A conditional operating grant, which is aimed at saving energy on the Electricity bill of the municipality, retrofitting of the municipal building	2016-2017
Expanded Public Works Programme	R1 147 000	A job creation conditional grant	2016-2017
Municipal Infrastructure Grant	R22 500 000	A conditional grant which aimed at addressing the backlogs of poor and ageing infrastructure as well as improved capacity on the performance of the water and sanitation networks2016-2017	2016-2017
Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG)	R43 883 000	A conditional grant for bulk infrastructure improvement	2016-2017

Budget Notables

Honourable Speaker,

I wish to urge Council to take note of the following in our budget:

- The indigence threshold has been increased by R3000 per household.
- In line with the Provincial Government's directives, the municipality will not be outsourcing Security Services and the budget for Security Services will be increased to R1,9 million – doubled from previous financial year. 18 additional security officers will be appointed in the new financial year.
- To strengthen good governance in IT, Finance and Internal Audit Unit, the MFMG budget has been increased to R1,85 million to allow for the appointment of additional interns by 5 taking their total number to 10.
- The municipality has been allocated R6 million for Energy Efficiency Demand Site Management which is meant for reduction of Eskom bill, energy saving and retrofitting lights in municipal building. Streets lights will also be installed with LED Lights that have an extended lifespan.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Government launched the Back to Basics Local government Revitalisation Plan in September 2014 and 2015 has been the year of intensive implementation. The plan includes the promotion of community engagement, which is absolutely critical to enable communities to provide feedback on their experience of local government. Hence I will be visiting communities to hear their concerns and suggestions. Issues raised during the visit will be followed up by the respective departments.

The sustained improvements in the audit outcomes of our municipality show that our systems of governance, financial management and transparency are consistently strengthening and maturing.

The municipality has retained a qualified audit opinion. In his presentation in the council meeting that was held on the 22 January 2016, the AG said that, although the municipality retained the same opinion, there was progress made in the municipality.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker,

Local government is widely recognized as a strategic site for service delivery as well as socio-economic development and transformation. The triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment are felt most directly at local government level. This is where all our societal challenges and contradictions play themselves out.

However, prior to 1994, municipalities were fragmented and racially segregated institutions, providing massively unequal services to different communities.

It is for this reason that the African National Congress (ANC) led government declared 2016 as the Year of Advancing People's Power: Local Government is in your hands and with this in mind we must be able to reflect on our achievements of this current local government term (2011 to 2016) of office and previous terms.

This address also takes place a month after the proclamation of 03rd August 2016 as the date of Local Government elections, thus marking the year 2016 as an end of the third term of the democratic local government. We urge everyone and the youth, in particular who are turning 18 years of age this year, to turnout to polling stations in their numbers for this first-ever opportunity to cast their votes as first time voters.

It is therefore befitting to thank the African National Congress, all Councilors, Management and all employees for your invaluable contribution towards championing the constitutional and service delivery mandate of this municipality during this term of local government.

I would like to thank communities from all walks of Masilonyana black and white – religious formations and the private sector for their continued support of our municipality. I also want to thank the Council for conferring me with such a mammoth governance responsibility over those years I have been the Mayor, I wholeheartedly appreciated it.

Ke a leboha, Dankie, Ndiyabulela, Ngiyabonga, Ke a leboga, Thank you.

I thank you!

**Issued by: Office of the Mayor
28th May 2015**

“Working Together we Masilonyana Move Forward”