

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE CHIEF WHIP

Change for the better but continue with the good!

Let me firstly start by borrowing words of wisdom from one African and philosophical scholar Ngugi wa Thionga when he said “ the ability of changing the squalor conditions of our people depends on the greater change of our upper thinking and the greater change of our attitude in meeting the aspirations of those we purport to be representing”.

The Honourable Speaker,

The Executive Mayor,

Representatives of both the ruling party and the opposition,

The Head of Administration in this Municipality, and most importantly,

The members of the society of the greater Randfontein, I am passing my warmest and revolutionary greeting to all of you!

I deliberately quoted the teachings of Ngugi wa Thionga as these are more relevant to the interpretation of the conditions of our people. Over the past sixteen years and so, we have accelerated the process of transforming the state and society. In the course of advancing our social transformation, the ANC agreed on the key manifesto areas that are critical in realising our strategic goal of building a developmental state.

We have to ensure that the developmental state has the capability to deliberately redirect resources towards uplifting poor communities. To date, millions of our people have access to housing, clean water, sanitation and electricity. We must however intensify our programme to eradicate informal settlements in our town by 2014, create new human settlements and provide land and tenure to enable people to build their own houses.

Our continuous interactions with our people have taught us that more still needs to be done. Our people are still living in abject poverty, particularly in townships and informal settlements. I therefore reiterate comrades; more of our resources must be deliberately redirected to the townships as the legacy of colonialism must be addressed.

In this case, the REC of the ANC has agreed on the Vision 2016, to coincide with our envisaged Unicity. Vision 2016 will ensure a planning that will address the infrastructure of our town, townships and informal settlement. We therefore need to account for each and every cent that we spend, each and every action that we take, create an objective oversight committees that will put our Mayoral committee on its toes. Indeed, we need to accelerate our effort to meet the challenges of our society.

Comrades, let me be blunt, the sporadic protestations in Zenzele are a result of our failure to meet the promises we made to those people, our failure to effectively communicate our

plans and advances on addressing their issues and therefore, we must as our first task go and present our plan to them. The foundation of the existence of the ANC is built on its relations with communities and therefore, communities are our soul of existence.

Local government is the coalface of service delivery. We must focus our energy on improving the capacity of our councillors; we indeed need to instil the activist council in Randfontein. Lazy councillors must do us a favour, please ship out; do not defraud the municipality a salary you do not deserve.

Let us all remember that we are deployees of the ANC in council, we draw our mandate from the ANC and therefore, I will not defy the Secretary of the ANC in the region as my political principal. I will do this under two important conditions, as a discipline deployee of the ANC and my understanding that I am not employed but deployed by the ANC.

To the opposition parties, let us put forth the interest of our society firstly, the infighting is not necessary. We need a politically and administratively stable municipality, no more fights that do not put the interest of our society firstly.

Lastly, to the Administrators, leave political battles to the politicians, to the Politicians, leave Administrative and technical responsibility to the administrators. No more interference.

In closing the honourable Speaker, democracy means more than voting. It must be measured by the quality of life of ordinary people. Therefore, let us redirect our resources to uplift the state of our people.

Thank You!