

**SPEECH FOR OPENING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE
26TH OF MARCH 2008 IN JUDES CLASS HALL**

THE SPEAKER

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

ALL COUNCILLORS

THE ADMINISTRATION WING OF THE MUNICIPALITY

MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT ALDERMAN FAITH MATSHIKIZA

OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

OUR CBOS AND NGOS PRESENT HERE TODAY

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE I STOOD IN THIS PODIUM TO PRESENT THE STATE OF OUR TOWN ADDRESS. MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THE 22nd OF MARCH 2007. WE HAVE HAD MANY SUCCESSES AND A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES.

I AM CONFIDENT 2007 WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A YEAR WHEN MANY GOOD THINGS HAPPENED IN RANDFONTEIN.

MADAM SPEAKER, THIS YEAR WE SEE THE CELEBRATION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE BANTU WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF THE ANC, AN HISTORICAL ASSERTION OF THE CENTRAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION, AND A SEMINAL MOMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

OUR MOVEMENT AS WAS SHOWN IN THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE POLOKWANA CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER; CONSISTENTLY OVER THE YEARS TAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO UPLIFT THE VALUE OF THE WOMAN LIFE, AS THE APARTHEID GOVERNMENT DELIBERATELY UNDERMINED THIS FORM OF HUMAN RIGHT.

OUR MOVEMENT APPROPRIATELY TAKES PRIDE IN ITSELF AND ENDEAVORS TO CONTINUOUSLY FULFILL ITS MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS THE LEADING POLITICAL FORCE DEDICATED TO THE LEGITIMATE AND ALL-ROUND LIBERATION OF ALL OUR PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOUR, GENDER AND AGE.

MADAM SPEAKER, IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT WE ALL CONCUR THAT THE SAME MOVEMENT THAT WE REPRESENT MUST THEREFORE, ALSO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN.

THIS MOVEMENT THROUGH THIS MUNICIPALITY AND ALL ITS OTHER MACHINERY MUST RESOLUTELY STAY LOYAL TO ITS VISION, WHICH DEFINES THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE STALWART OF OUR MOVEMENT, O.R TAMBO IN 1984 DECLARED IT THE YEAR OF A WOMAN, 'IT WILL BE OUR SPECIAL TASK THIS YEAR TO ORGANISE AND MOBILISE OUR WOMENFOLK INTO A POWERFUL, UNITED AND ACTIVE FORCE FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE".

WE ARE COMMITTING, JUST LIKE OUR MOVEMENT DID THROUGH ITS PRESIDENT IN 1984, THAT 2008 WILL BE OUR YEAR TO ORGANISE AND MOBILISE OUR WOMENFOLK INTO POWERFUL, UNITED AND ACTIVE FORCE FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES ITS FIFTEEN YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AS RANDFONTEIN WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN THE SECONDARY STRUGGLE, WHICH IS OF TOTAL ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION.

O.R TAMBO, ACKNOWLEDGED IN 1984, AND WE CONCUR WITH HIM TODAY THAT "OUR STRUGGLE WILL BE LESS THAN POWERFUL AND OUR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL

EMANCIPATION CAN NEVER BE COMPLETE IF WE CONTINUE TO TREAT THE WOMEN OF OUR COUNTRY AS DEPENDENT MINORS AND OBJECTS OF ONE FORM OF EXPLOITATION OR ANOTHER.

MY TOWNSMEN, I CALL UPON ALL OF OUR CONSCIENCE AS THE COMMUNITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY TO DECLARE LIKE OLIVER TAMBO DID IN 1984 THAT 2008 IS THE YEAR THAT RANDFONTEIN PRIORITIZES THE WOMAN, LIKE THAMBO I CHARGE THE ENTIRE PROGRESSIVE AND PATRIOTIC FORCES OF OUR TOWN WITH THE TASK OF JOINING IN THE EFFORT TO MOBILISE OUR WOMEN TO UNITE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TOWN.

MADAM SPEAKER, IN OUR MIDST WE DELIGHT IN THE PRESENCE OF MAMA MATSIDISO MASIKA A VETERAN SPORT WOMAN, WHO HAVE HOISTED THE FLAG OF OUR TOWN IN PLACES AFAR.

I BELIEVE SOME OF HER COUNTERPARTS AND OTHERS BEFORE HER, DUE TO OPPRESSIVE LAWS OF THEIR TIME, WITH THE TALENT THEY HAD, COULD NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF OUR TOWN AND COUNTRY, BUT TODAY WE SAY WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THEM. THEY ARE OUR TREASURED POSSESSIONS, JEWELS IN OUR TOWN'S CROWN.

LASTLY, PLEASE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ALLOW ME TO ACKNOWLEDGE A YOUNG MAN, A PROOF THAT HARD WORK YIELDS FAVORABLE RESULTS, MR. DJ MARKS, WHO ACTS IN OUR NATIONAL MOVIE RIEMAVASMAAK.

AS THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN WE SAY THANK HIM AND WE WANT HIM TO HAVE NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND ABOUT THE HUGE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THE STATUS THAT OUR COMMUNITY CONFERS ON HIM AS A RESULT OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS ALLOW ME TO DEAL WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND, AS THE EXECUTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY WE HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION TO CONSTANTLY MAKE AN OBJECTIVE PRESENTATION OF WHETHER WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE PRACTICAL SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGIES AND PROGRESSIVE POLICIES THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY RANDFONTEIN CITIZEN AND THAT ADVANCES THE OBJECTIVES OF A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

THIS ASSESSMENT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IT MUST GIVE US THE LOGICAL AND IMPARTIAL BASIS TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE SHOULD CHANGE ANY OF OUR STRATEGIES AND STEER THIS SHIP INTO ANOTHER POLICY DIRECTION.

THEREFORE ALLOW ME COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS TO REFLECT ON THE STRIDES WE HAVE TAKEN TOGETHER IN PERSUIT OF ACHIEVING THE COMMITMENTS WE SET OUT TO ACHIEVE IN 2007.

IN MY OFFICE WE HAVE TAKEN THE BULL BY ITS HORN IN THE MATTER OF YOUTH AND DISABILITY ECONOMIC UPLIFMENT.

ONLY TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR TILL NOW WE HAVE:

- ESTABLISHED YOUTH FORUMS IN ALL THE WARDS TO COORDINATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.
- WE HAVE FACILITATED RECRUITMENT AND FURTHER ADMISSION OF 681 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT FINISHED MATRIC TO ENROL WITH WESCOL
- WE HAVE ASSISTED WITH THE RECRUITMENT FOR LAFARGE AND OTHER AGENCIES TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN
- WE HAVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT AND YOUTH AGENCIES CONDUCTED CAPACITY BUILDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF BUSINESS, SOCIAL MATTERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

- WE HAVE COME UP WITH A DRAFT POLICY THAT WILL DEAL WITH HONOURING CITIZENS OF RANDFONTEIN,

PUBLIC SAFETY:

LAST YEAR WE COMMITTED TO:

- INSTALLATION OF CAMERA SYSTEM FOR SPEED MEASURING
- ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO CONTROL ROOM WITH NATIS
- TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE INTERSECTION OF R28 AND R559
- INSTALL PARKING METRES TO ALLEVIATE PARKING CHAOS IN THE CBD
- EMPLOY PEACE OFFICERS THAT WILL DEAL WITH THE BURDEN OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU TODAY THAT WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED TO FULLY EMPLOY THE FOLLOWING:

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE ENTIRE ORGANISATION (WORK IN PROGRESS). IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE SIGNING OF PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN CASCADED DOWN TO LEVELS 1-3. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THIS WILL ASSIST IN BUILDING A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPROVED PERFORMANCE WITH THE ORGANISATION.

WITH REGARD TO FILLING OF VACANCIES, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND AS OF DECEMBER 2007 THE CAPACITY (POSITIONS FILLED) WERE STANDING AT 65%. WE TAKE NOTE THAT A LOT OF WORK STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THIS REGARD AND PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FILL MORE POSITIONS IN THE

REMANING PERIOD OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR
2008/2009

PEACE OFFICERS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR TOWN, A DEDICATED TEAM OF PEACE OFFICERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF:

- ILLEGAL DUMPING
- ILLEGAL STREET TRADING
- LITTERING

TO DATE FIVE (05) PEACE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AND RECENTLY COMPLETED TRAINING TO BE DEPLOYED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN RANDFONTEIN. PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO INCREASE THE TEAM IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEARS.

IT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE COMMUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE MUNICIPALITY IN THIS REGARD, AS THESE OFFICERS WILL ASSIST IN REGULATING AND ENFORCEMENT OF BY LAWS.

WE ACCEPT THAT CLEANLINESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT IS A RIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT WITH RIGHTS COME RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE TO KEEP OUR SURROUNDINGS CLEAN. OUR MUNICIPALITY CAN GO UP TO SO FAR IN MAINTAINING LEVELS OF CLEANLINESS, THE REST REMAINS WITH THE COMMUNITY. IT IS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT.

FROM OUR SIDE WE WILL KEEP TO OUR END OF THE DEAL BY COLLECTING ALL THE DOMESTIC REFUSE IN OUR TOWN TO AVOID ILLEGAL DUMPING.

TRAFFIC OFFICERS

THREE (3) NEW TRAFFIC OFFICERS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED TO BOLSTER THE CURRENT TEAM IN ORDER TO MEET THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES FACING THE MUNICIPALITY.

PARKING METERS

THE METERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL FROM THE BEGINNING OF MAY 2008. (SIX) PARKING WARDENS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AND PARKING MARSHALLS DUE FOR APPOINTMENT. PROPOSED TARRIFS HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED AND THE PROJECT IS EXEPECTED TO CREATE JOBS FOR ALMOST 27 LUCKY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

WE UNDERSTAND AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE FALLEN SHORT IN FULFILLING OUR PROMISE ON THIS REGARD. THIS IS DUE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL PROCESSES THAT NEEDED TO STILL UNFOLD.

INFRASTRUCTURE

LAST YEAR I STOOD IN FRONT OF YOU AND MADE THE FOLLOWING UNDERTAKINGS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT:

- EXTENSION OF SEWER, ELECTRICAL AND WATER RETICULATION SYSTEMS
- REFURBRISHMENT OF THE CEMETRIES
- CONSTRUCTION OF SIDE WALKS, PARKS AND
- RESURFACING OF ROADS
- TO ADDRESS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN THE BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK, I LED AN ENTOURAGE MADE UP OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL WING OF THE

MUNICIPALITY. WE VISITED ALL THE TOWNSHIPS AROUND RANDFONTEIN TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN.

IT IS WITH A GREAT SENSE OF FRUSTRATION TO REPORT TO YOU THAT AT LEAST 40% OF THE WORK WE PLANNED DOING IN THESE AREAS WAS STILL OUTSTANDING. WE STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US, BUT OUR COMMITMENT STILL STANDS

HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED:

- COMPLETED GRASS CUTTING, TREE PRUNING PROGRAMS
- RESURFACING OF THE MAIN REEF ROAD (WORK IN PROGRESS)
- REFILL OF POTHOLES IN OUR ROADS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
- PARTERSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH LOCAL CONTRACTORS (WASTE MANAGEMENT) TO FOCUS ON MOHLAKENG AND TOEKOMSRUS. THERE ARE STILL CHALLENGES IN THIS REGARD HOWEVER PLANS ARE INPLACE TO REFINE THE STRATEGY IN ORDER TO HAVE VISIBLE SERVICE DELIVERY;
- UPGRADING OF LOW AND HIGH VOLTAGE NETWORKS IN MOHLAKENG TO DEAL WITH POWER OUTAGES;
- UPGRADING OF PURIFICATION WORKS;
- OHS ACT COMPLIANCE AUDIT
- R28 STREET LIGHTING PROJECT
- BADERILE BULK WATER (WORK IN PROGRESS)
- DROGGEHEWEUL BULK WATER – (WORK IN PROGRESS).
- DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF ENERGY USAGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESKOM

- UPGRADING OF TEN ACRES OVERHEAD LINES
- UPGRADING OF MOHLAKENG OUTFALL SEWER
- MOHLAKENG/FINSBURY WATER PRESSURE ZONING;
- RANDFONTEIN SOUTH CEMETERY UPGRADE
- MOHLAKENG ROADS PROJECT (20 PTP)
- PAVING MOHLAKENG INTERSECTION

FINANCE

LAST YEAR I STOOD IN THIS PODIUM TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL REVISE THE INDIGENT POLICY SO THAT IT ACCOMMODATES MORE DESERVING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

IN THE SAME BREATH, WE HAVE AS WELL PROMISED THAT WE WILL IMPROVE OUR BILLING SYSTEMS AND REVENUE COLLECTION STATISTICS.

I FIND GREAT JOY TO ANNOUNCE THAT COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY APPROVED THE REVISED AND MORE ACCOMMODATIVE INDIGENT POLICY.

WE HAVE FURTHER DEVELOPED THE COMMUNITY FRIENDLY CREDIT CONTROL POLICY TO PROTECT AND MOTIVATE THE COMMUNITY TO PAY FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

WE HAVE FURTHER MANAGED OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO INFACCT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WE HAVE OVER THE YEARS LAMENTED THE UNDER CAPACITATION OF THE UNIT AND BLAME ITS LACK OF PERFORMANCE TO THIS ASPECT, I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THAT THIS WILL NO LONGER BE THE CASE, AS THE MUNICIPALITY HAS CONSCIOUSLY OVER LAST YEAR EMBARKED ON A PROCESS TO FILL THE VACANCIES IN THIS UNIT..

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO:

- HAVE THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY COUNCIL
- ESTABLISHED AND MADE SURE THAT THE GEP HAS TAKEN OCCUPATION OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SMME'S
- AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY AND POLICY ADOPTED
- ADOPTION OF THE LAND ALIENATION POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
- MOHLAKENG EXT 3, 7 AND 8 HOUSING DELIVERY PROJECT IS ALMOST COMPLETE;
- PLG PROJECT (RESOLVED LEGAL MATTER AND REDESIGN OF WORKING RELATIONS);

SOCIAL SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE FEW PROJECTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED:

- WE HAVE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC A WELL STAFFED ELANDSFONTEIN CLINIC
- COMPLETED THE FENCING IN ZENZELE CLINIC
- ERECTED TOILETS AND CONTAINER AND ZENZELE CLINIC
- THERE WAS A DIABETIC CAMPAIGN AND OTHER HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MOHLAKENG AND RURAL AREAS

- LAUNCHED THE SPORT FORUM WHOSE MAJOR AIM TO DEVELOP SPORTING TALENT WITHIN RANDFONTEIN
- WE HAVE WITH THE TRAINING CENTRE OF WESTRAND STARTED AN ABET CLASS OF ABOUT SEVENTEEN PEOPLE INCLUDING PENSIONERS AND MIDDLE AGE WOMEN IN BRANDVLEI.
- WE HAVE EXTENDED THE FOOD GARDENING FROM THE SCHOOLS THROUGH TO HOMES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
- DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE HAS GRANTED US AN AMOUNT OF R1,966,000-00 FOR UPGRADING LIBRARY FACILITIES;
- A BUSINESS PLAN TOGETHER WITH A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENTS.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DEEPENING DEMOCRACY AND CREATION OF A CARING GOVERNMENT ARE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FIVE TRATEGIC TARGETS OF THE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE OBJECTIVE BEGINS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE WE HAVE IN THE LAST YEAR ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING CAMPAIGNS:

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FUN RUN
- PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
- MAYORAL IMBIZOS
- MAYORAL SCHOOL CLEANING CAMPAING
- AIDS AWARENESS AND ANTI CHILD AND WOMEN VIOLENCE

CHALLENGES

CRITICAL CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN TRANSLATION OF OUR PROGRESSIVE POLICIES TO PRACTICAL OPERATIONAL PLANS THAT CREATE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESSES TO THRIVE, IN RETURN REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT,

THE OTHER CRITICAL CHALLENGE HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAMME FOR THE SUSTAINED ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND ITS REMNANTS. WE BELIEVE, SHOULD THIS PROGRAM EXIST, WE WILL HAVE A COMMUNITY THAT WILL FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND ALL THE SOCIAL ILLS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THIS INDIGENCY.

ANSWERING THESE CHALLENGES MEANS THAT WE MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSFORM THE QUALITY OF THAT GROWTH INTO GENUINE POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND JOB CREATION PROGRAMS.

SIMILAR TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, RANDFONTEIN HAS A CRITICAL CHALLENGE THAT IF IT CAN BE LEFT UNATTENDED CAN HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECTS, THAT IS SHORTAGES OF POWER SUPPLY. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THIS CHALLENGE HAS A POTENTIAL OF NOT JUST STANDING ON THE WAY OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TOWN, BUT TO STAND ON THE WAY OF LIFE AS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW IT.

TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THIS IMPOSING CHALLENGE HEAD ON, WE HAVE HAD MEETINGS WITH ESKOM AND THE MEC FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

BETWEEN THE THREE OF US, WE HAVE COME UP WITH PROGRAM TO TEMPORARLY ADDRESS THIS ISSUES, THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- SWITCH OFF OFFICE LIGHTS WHEN KNOCKING OFF.
- INSTALLATION OF ENERGY SAVING BULBS.
- INVESTIGATE SUBSIDIZING BULBS TO THE COMMUNITY.
- TRAFFIC LIGHTS ENERGISED BY SOLAR SYSTEM.
- TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE NEED TO SAVE POWER

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, ALLOW ME TO ENTER INTO AN UNCOMFORTABLE CHALLENGE TO DEAL WITH, THE ONE THAT IS CLOSE TO HOME. WE ARE ON A DAILY BASIS FACED WITH LAXITY AMONG SOME OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS, THIS ATTITUDE

HAS UNMEASURABLE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT ON OUR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR POLICIES.

WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, SOME, IN WHEREVER LEVEL WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION, DO NOT SEEM TO SHARE OUR PASSION TO DELIVER QULAITY SERVICE DELIVERY EFFICIENTLY TO ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS.

MADAM SPEAKER IF THE AUDIENCE CAN INDULGE ME A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON ONE LAST CHALLENGE IN TERMS OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUILDING A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

I WOULD TELL YOU THAT, JUST LIKE THE REST OF GAUTENG, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH HIGH LEVELS OF MIGRATION WITHIN OUR TOWN, AND THESE PEOPLE REQUIRE SERVICES LIKE THE REST OF US.

THE EFFECT OF THIS MIGRATION IS FELT MOSTLY IN THE AREA OF HOUSING DELIVERY WHERE IT IS FURTHER EXACERBATED BY THE LACK OF SUITABLE LAND.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS NOT ALL DARK AND GLOOM, THE MUNICIPALITY HAS FOUND WAYS, AMIDST CIRCUMSTANCES OTHERS MIGHT FEEL ARE DAUNTING AND OVERWHELMING, TO EMBRACE CHALLENGES AND CONFRONT NEGLIGENCE AND INSENSITIVITY TO OUR PLANS WHERE EVER THEY MIGHT EMERGE.

WE CONCEDE THAT THE MUNICIPALITY HAS UNDERGONE TREMENDOUS STRAINS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS DUE TO A LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, WE CAN NO LONGER HIDE BEHIND SHORTAGE OF CAPACITY AND RESOURCES.

IT IS TIME TO SHOW VISIBLE SERVICE DELIVERY. WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME. TIME WAITS FOR NO MEN'

PLAN FOR 2008

AS A COLLECTIVE, WE BEGAN 2008, STIMULATED TO EXECUTE A PROGRESSIVE PLAN THAT SERVES TO GUIDE OUR MUNICIPALITY TO ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, THOSE OF:

- BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE AND CARING GOVERNMENT
- ENABLING FASTER ECONOMIC GROWTH
- FIGHTING POVERTY AND CREATING SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
- DEEEPENING DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

INFRASTRUCTURE

WE HAVE OVER THE YEARS, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE CAN NEVER BE ANY ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT A CONSCIOUS STRATEGIC PLAN TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN OUR PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

WE ARE PLANNING TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS BEFORE THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR:

- TO SURFACE EIGHT KILOMETER OF ROADS
- INSTALLATION OF TWO HIGH MAST IN PEACE HAVEN
- COMPLETION OF OUTSTANDING ELECTRICITY NETWORK IN TEN ACRES
- PURIFICATION OF WATER PUMP STATIONS

IN ZENZELE WE WILL:

- REPAIR WATER NETWORKS
- INSTAL HIGHMAST LIGHTS AND
- REGRAVEL THE ROADS.

FINANCE

MADAM SPEAKER, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE ARE FORMIDABLE STRIDES ACHIEVED WITHIN THIS DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE REVENUE COLLECTION, THIS HAS LED TO SOME OF THE GAINS BEING CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS.

THIS IS OUR PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

- IMPROVE ACCURACY OF METER READING
- UPGRADE OF PAY POINTS AND INSTALL ELECTRONIC VENDING POINTS FOR MOHLAKENG AND TOEKOMSRUS
- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROTOCOLS TO BE BIASED TO LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

SOCIAL SERVICES

WE ARE AWARE OF THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACES IN THE AREA OF HEALTH DELIVERY, INCLUDING THE HUMAN, MATERIAL AND MANAGERIAL RESOURCES SHORTAGES.

IN OUR DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES, WE STRIVE TO CONTINUOUSLY WORK IN A COORDINATED MANNER TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY THESE REALITIES, WHICH ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CONTINUING STRUGGLE TO BRING A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

WE ARE FURTHER FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT BECAUSE THE HEALTH PORTFOLIO IN ANY GOVERNMENT, DEALS LITERALLY WITH MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING AND CONTROVERSIAL IN ALL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS.

PART OF OUR CHALLENGE IS NOT MAINLY DEALING WITH HEALTH MATTERS IN THIS DEPARTMENT, BUT SOCIAL PRIORITIES THAT NEED MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES AND CONSTANT STRATEGY ASSESSMENTS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND IMBALANCES.

THEREFORE, WE HAVE PLACED RESOURCES ASIDE TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING WITHIN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR;

- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FINSBURY SPORTS FACILITY
- ESTABLISHMENT OF READING PROGRAMS IN LIBRARIES
- WE WILL CLUSTER REGISTERED ECD'S TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES
- IMPLEMENT THE PLANS TO EXTEND MOHLAKENG OLD AGE CENTRE TO INCLUDE FRAIL UNIT
- CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN AND UPGRADE OUR HIV/AIDS PROGRAM TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY AND ALL OUT HEALTH AND SOCIAL AWARENESS RELATED CAMPAIGNS.
- CONTINUE INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES AND THE QUALITY OF FOOD PROVIDED IN THE SOUP KITCHENS.
- TO START THE ABET CLASS IN ELANDSFONTEIN FOR ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE WHERE THE LOCAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL HAS AVAIL A CLASSROOM FOR THIS PURPOSE
- TO START WITH THE SOWING PROGRAM FOR RURAL WOMEN TO SOW UNIFORMS FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDRE, ALREADY THERE ARE MACHINES AND A CONTAINER TO DO THIS, HOWEVER THE MUNICIPALITY NEEDS TO INSTALL ELECTRICITY SO THAT THEY CAN START.

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND LED

IN OUR 2006 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO WE HAVE SAID,"A GROWING ECONOMY WILL ENABLE US TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY BY HALF. THE ECONOMY WILL HAVE THE SKILLS IT NEEDS TO GROW AND OUR

PEOPLE THE EDUCATION THEY NEED TO FIND EMPLOYMENT. THE INCREASED LEVEL OF EFFORT GIVEN TO THIS UNIT OVERTIME IS TO ADDRESS THIS COMMITMENT.

WE WILL THEREFORE:

- FINISH PHASE TWO OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
- TO PROVIDE QUALITY SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMME'S
- FACILITATE AND ENSURE THAT BULK SUPPLY OF WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRICITY ARE SUPPLIED IN THE FINISHED HOUSES OF EXT SEVEN, EIGHT AND THREE IN MOHLAKENG
- THE FOLLOWING ROADS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE UPGRADED: MATLANA, VASCO DA GAMA, SEGAETSHO, WARRIOR, SUNDOWN, MOGALOBE AND SAXON STREETS
- DEVELOPMENT OF A LAND INVASION POLICY

PUBLIC SAFETY

IN THE 2004 NATIONAL ELECTION MANIFESTO WE HAVE SAID, "WE MUST IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, AND MAKE LIFE MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT FOR CRIMINALS AS WELL AS CROOKS IN PRIVATE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES WHO STEAL AND CHEAT'.

AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WE KNOW THAT THIS IS ONE AREA THAT REWUIRES THE FULL COMMIMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, WE WILL IN OUR PART DO THE FOLLOWING:

- TO ESTABLISH A SATELITE AT VILLAGE SQUARE WITH THE VIEW TO ASSIST IN CRIME PREVENTION
- INSTALL A SPEED CAMERAL SYSTEM

IN CONCLUSION

WE AS THE ANC COUNCILLORS HAVE VOWED TO PLACE OUR ENERGIES AND SKILLS AT THE DISPOSAL OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND CARRY OUT THE TASKS GIVEN TO US. WE SAID WE WILL WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AS WE STRIVE TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

AS WE CARRY THIS MAMMOTH OATH AND VISION FORWARD WE WILL, DESPITE THE AGITATIONS OF MALCONTENTS OF OUR DETRACTORS, CARRY ON AS A COMMUNITY OF GOOD CITIZENS.

WE KNOW OUR POLICIES REMAIN SOUND AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE. WE WILL CONSOLIDATE OUR SUCCESSES. WE WILL BUILD ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, LEARN FROM OUR WEAKNESSES.

WE WILL MARCH ON, BELIEVING WITH ALL WE HAVE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE. WE MUST DARE TO SEE OURSELVES IN THIS LIGHT, AND DEMAND TO LIVE AND WORK THIS WAY TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE.

IN ALL OF OUR ENDEVOURS, I URGE ALL OF US NOT TO FORGET THE WOMEN OF OUR COUNTRY, LET THIS BE THE YEAR THAT OUR GIRL CHILDREN, MOTHERS, SISTERS, WIVES ARE FREE FROM ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE. LET US, THE GOOD CITIZENS TAKE A STAND AND SAY KWANELE!

LET US SEE 2008 ENDS WITH VISIBLE FRUITS OF ECONOMICAL EMANCIPATION FOR OUR WOMEN, LET OUR WOMEN RULE THE FINANCES OF OUR BUSINESSES AS THEY RULE THE FINANCES OF OUR HOMES.

LET OUR MOTHERS AND SISTERS BE THE DIVAS, JUST LIKE GOD INTENDED THEM TO BE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WITH THOSE FEW WORDS, I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!