

COLLEAGUES IN THE EXECUTIVE

MUNICIPAL MANAGER AND YOUR TEAM OF DIRECTORS

COUNCILORS AND FRIENDS,

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO STAND IN FRONT OF YOU THIS EVENING TO LAUNCH BOTH THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND WHAT WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE BE REFERRED TO AS MAYORAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, MEANT MAINLY TO ENCOURAGE THE STAFF OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

I WAS REPEATEDLY REMINDED NOT TO MAKE A MISTAKE AND RAISE YOUR HOPES THAT YOU MIGHT RECEIVE AWARDS TODAY. NOT TODAY MY FELLOW TOWNSMAN AND WOMEN, BUT ONLY WHEN SOME OF YOU HAVE WITH DILIGENCE AND EXTRA ORDINARILY PERFORMED YOUR DUTIES, AND ONLY IN THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR THAT THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE MAYOR.

I AM TEMPTED TO BREAK MY PROMISE AND SPILL THE BEANS ON THE OTHER PROMISE THAT I HAVE MADE, THAT OF NOT TELLING WHAT ELSE WILL THE WINNER OF THE AWARD WILL RECEIVE WITH IT AS A PRIZE FOR FEAR OF THE STAFF WORKING IN THE OFFICE ALL NIGHT DUE TO FIERCE COMPETITION OF THE PRIZE.

HOWEVER, IN TIME YOU WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH THE CRITERIA THAT WILL BE USED TO SELECT WINNERS IN ALL CATEGORIES. SO TO ALL OF US, THE GAME IS ON. HOPEFULLY ALL OF YOU ARE SO READY FOR THE CHALLENGE THAT YOU ARE DARING ME TO 'BRING IT ON'.

ALL I CAN SAY IS, WITHOUT ASPIRING TO SOUND PREJUDICE IN THIS AUGUST MONTH, SET ASIDE BY OUR BELOVED GOVERNMENT TO CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE THE LIFE AND IMPACT OF OUR MOTHERS, SISTERS, DAUGHTERS ETC IN OUR EXISTENCE, 'MAY THE BEST MAN WIN'.

WHOEVER WINS WILL SPELL OUT OUR OWN SUCCESS AS THE MUNICIPALITY, BECAUSE WHATEVER CONTRIBUTION THAT THE PERSON HAS DONE IN THEIR LITTLE CORNERS WOULD TRANSLATE TO STEP TOWARDS REALIZATION OF THE PLAN THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS PROFESSED TO HAVE TO MAKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK FOR ALL US.

COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OF THE TOWN OF RANDFONTEIN, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO QUOTE THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE, MR. SARKOZY WHEN HE, WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR, SPOKE FRANKLY OF THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF THE WORLD AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TOWARDS THE LACK OF DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA AND HER CHILDREN WHEN HE WAS ADDRESSING STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR IN SENEGAL ON 31 JULY 2007, WHEN HE POINTED OUT....

"THE WEAKNESS OF AFRICA, WHICH KNEW SO MANY BRILLIANT CIVILISATIONS ON ITS SOIL, IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT SHE DID NOT ENGAGE WITH OTHER CULTURES FOR A LONG TIME (BECAUSE OF SLAVERY AND COLONIALISM). AFRICA PAID DEARLY FOR THIS DISENGAGEMENT FROM THE WORLD, AND IT MADE HER VERY VULNERABLE. BUT FROM ALL HER SUFFERINGS, AFRICA HAS DRAWN NEW STRENGTH BY RE-ENGAGING WITH HERSELF.

THIS RE-ENGAGEMENT, WHATEVER THE PAINFUL CONDITIONS OF ITS BIRTH WERE, IS AFRICA'S TRUE STRENGTH AND REAL CHANCE AT THIS MOMENT WHEN THE FIRST WORLD CIVILISATION IS EMERGING...

"(THE POSSIBILITY TO BE ABLE TO STUDY, TO WORK, TO LIVE DECENTLY) IS BASICALLY WHAT ALL OF AFRICA WANTS. AFRICA DOES NOT WANT CHARITY. AFRICA DOES NOT WANT HELP. AFRICA DOES NOT WANT PERMITS.

"WHAT AFRICA WANTS IS SOLIDARITY, UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT, AND THIS MUST BE GIVEN TO HER. WHAT AFRICA WANTS, IS THAT ONE DOES NOT TAKE OVER

HER FUTURE, THINK FOR HER, OR DECIDE FOR HER. WHAT AFRICA WANTS IS WHAT FRANCE WANTS.

"YOUTH OF AFRICA, GLOBALISATION AS IT IS, DOES NOT PLEASE YOU. AFRICA HAS PAID TOO HIGH A PRICE FOR THE MIRAGE OF COLLECTIVISM AND PROGRESS, TO CEDE TO THAT OF LAISSER FAIRE POLICIES. YOUTH OF AFRICA, YOU BELIEVE THAT THE FREE MARKET IS BENEFICIAL BUT THAT IT IS NOT A RELIGION. YOU BELIEVE THAT COMPETITION IS A MEANS BUT IT IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF.

"YOU KNOW THAT IF AFRICA IS TOO NAÏVE, AFRICA WILL BE CONDEMNED TO BEING THE PREY OF ALL THE WORLD'S PREDATORS. AND YOU DO NOT WANT THAT. YOU WANT ANOTHER GLOBALISATION, WITH MORE HUMANITY, MORE JUSTICE, MORE RULES."

FOR THE WORDS OF THIS PROGRESSIVE FRENCH MAN TO MAKE AN IMPACT THAT WILL DRIVE ALL OUR PROGRAMS AND EXISTENCE. WE NEED FIRST TO ERASE THE MENTALITY THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA AND NOT US. AS IT IS OUR TENDENCY AS SOUTH AFRICANS TO MOST OF THE TIME, DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM ANYTHING AFRICAN.

THE REVOLUTION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO INVOKE IN ALL OF US AS AFRICANS, NEEDS TO START WITHIN US AS INDIVIDUALS, THEN AS TOWNSMAN AND LATER SPREAD TO OUR PATRIOTISM AND AFRICANISM THAT WE SYMBOLIZE.

I DARE ALL OF US TO SHINE IN THIS CHALLENGE. IF IT TAKES US HERE IN RANDFONTEIN TO BE THE BEACON OF LIGHT FOR THE CONTINENT AND THE COUNTRY. THEN WE NEED TO SHOW IN OUR EXISTENCE AS THE TOWN, AND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROGRAMS, THAT UNLIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF AFRICA, WE WILL NEVER BE NAÏVE AGAIN TO BE PREYS TO THE UNFORGIVING

PREDATORS OF OUR LONG FOUGHT FOR OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

LIKE AFRICA, RANDFONTEIN DOES NOT NEED PITY OR CHARITY. WE NEED A COLLECTIVE EFFORT THAT WE HAVE WITHIN OUR DIVERSITY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN AND CHILDREN.

LET US AS PROMPTED FIRST BY OUR HUMANITY, THEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE, STAND IN UNISON FOR DEMAND OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR OUR COMMON GOALS OF PROGRESS AND TRANSFORMATION FROM ALL THOSE WHO, LIKE US, BELIEVE IN THESE OBJECTIVES.

THAT AS PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN AND COUNTRY, THESE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO US. NOT AS A FAVOUR OR HAND OUTS, BUT EARNED THROUGH HARD WORK, LIKE WHAT AFRICA IS DOING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENTS NOW, LET US ENTER THE PROCESS OF ENGAGEMENT WITHIN OURSELVES AND OUR NEIGHBORS AND ALIGN OUR SYSTEMS, MECHANISMS AND TOOLS THAT WILL ASSIST IN THE REALIZATION OF THE SAID OBJECTIVES.

BECAUSE LIKE AFRICA, ALL WHAT RANDFONTEIN WANTS, IS THAT ONE DOES NOT TAKE OVER HER FUTURE, THINK FOR HER, OR DECIDE FOR HER.

LET US AS RANDFONTEINIANS, AS IS ASKED OF AFRICANS AS A WHOLE, ENGAGE, NOT JUST AT SENIOR POLITICAL LEVEL, BUT LET IT BEGIN INTERNALLY WITH OUR PEOPLE HERE AT WORK AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

LET IT BEGIN WITH THE DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS SPEAKING TO EACH, BECAUSE LIKE AFRICA WE HAVE LEARNT THAT DISENGAGEMENT, WHETHER SELF IMPOSED DUE TO SILO MENTALITY OR CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, CAN MAKE

ALL OF US AS A COLLECTIVE OR INDIVIDUALS, PAY DEARLY TOWARDS FAST TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY.

FURTHER, WE HAVE LEARNT FROM OUR CONTINENT IN THE PAST THAT THE SAME DISENGAGEMENT EXPOSED ITS VULNERABILITY TO THE PREDATORS OF PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL. WE SHOULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THIS AND STAND FIRM IN OUR COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE.

DUE TO THE FACT THAT AS THE MUNICIPALITY WE HAVE TAKEN SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REVERSING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF WHAT WENT WRONG IN OUR PAST AS AFRICANS FIRST, THEN AS SOUTH AFRICANS AND LASTLY, YET IMPORTANTLY AS RANDFONTEINIANS.

WE HAVE, IN OUR MANY INTERACTIONS WITH THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE IN THE PAST YEAR, RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT WE BELIEVE ARE CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES OF, AMONGST OTHERS, PROVIDING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY IN AN INTEGRATED WAY FOR ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY AND ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR CONTINENT, COUNTRY AND TOWN AS POINTED OUT BY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT.

WE HOPE TO ACQUIRE THIS THROUGH THE EMPHASIS WE GIVE IN BUILDING THE CAPACITY WITHIN OUR MUNICIPALITY ESSENTIAL TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF ENSURING THAT THE PLANS THAT WE HAVE SET OUT TO ACHIEVE, ARE ATTAINED.

WE ARE FURTHER MAKING A CALL FOR ALL WHO HAVE THE STAKE ON THE MATTER TO MATURE ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A BROADER PERSPECTIVE THAT WILL ENABLE US TO DELIBERATE ON THESE GOALS IN A MORE STRATEGIC MANNER AND BEYOND THE CONFINES OF OUR IMMEDIATE LINE FUNCTIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE LAUNCH OF BOTH THE MAYORAL AWARDS AND THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT FOR THE MUNICIPALITY ARE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ACHIEVING THESE GOALS THAT WE SET OUT FOR OURSELVES.

THEREFORE, IF WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT WE NEED TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF MATURITY AND THINK OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES, PROVIDE SERVICE DELIVERY IN AN INTEGRATED, MEASURABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER AND BUILD THE CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE REQUIRED WITHIN OUR MUNICIPALITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF SERVICE DELIVERY, WE SHOULD AS THIS COLLECTIVE, DO WHATEVER IN OUR POWER TO UNDERSTAND THE PHYSICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT UNDER WHICH WE OPERATE.

THIS IS THE REASON IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BRING THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, AS AN OUTSIDER ON THE MATTER OF OUR DEVELOPMENT HE WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE BOTH OUR PHYSICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT.

BECAUSE SHOULD WE MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINE AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR CONCEPTUAL, ITS PAST OR PRESENT AND EVEN ITS REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS AND UNREALISTIC ANTICIPATION,

THE CONSEQUENCE MIGHT RESULT IN OUR STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES, WITH ALL THEIR GOOD INTENTION, NOT BEING SYNCHRONIZED ENOUGH TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO THE CALL OF URGENT SERVICE DELIVERY GOALS AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR.

COLLEAGUES, THIS CALLS ON US TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS STRATEGIC DOCUMENT DOES NOT SIT IN OUR FILING CABINETS AND ACCUMULATE DUST FOR THE NEXT YEAR. BUT IT BECOMES WHAT A COMPASS IS TO THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP, WHAT A BIBLE IS TO A CHRISTIAN AND WHAT A HEART IS TO THE BODY TO NAME BUT A FEW EXAMPLES.

IT SHOULD FURTHER EQUIP US TO BE IN A POSITION TO PLAN ACCURATELY, IMPLEMENT THOSE PLANS ACCURATELY, EXPLOIT ACCURATE TOOLS TO AUDIT THE PATH NAVIGATED, AND ALSO, ASSIST US TO ACCURATELY ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE, WHILE AT ALL TIMES ENSURING THAT OUR EYES ARE ACCURATELY FOCUSED ON THE DECENT LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY DESTINATION AND ERADICATION OF ALL THAT IS NOT DEVELOPMENTAL AN PROGRESSIVE.

WITH THOSE FEW WORDS, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOR PRESENCE, AND I KNOW THAT THIS LIMITED NUMBER THAT IS PRESENT HERE TODAY, REPRESENTS THE NUMBER OF THOSE COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PLANS THAT WE SET OUT TO ACHIEVE.

AND AS AMAXHOSA WOULD SAY 'KUFA AYAYO' OKANYE 'KUBOTSHWA ETSALAYO', MEANING THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED ARE MOST LIKELY TO WORK HARDER AND MORE OFTEN THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT. THEREFORE I AM MAKING YET ANOTHER CALL. STAND UP AND FIGHT, THE BATTLEFIELDS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE WIDE OPEN.

LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER FOR EMBRACING MY POINT OF VIEW ON THE CONCEPT OF THIS LAUNCH, AND ALSO MY OFFICE FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN FOR ALL OF US IN SUCH A SHORT NOTICE.

TO ALL OF YOU, THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR EVENING...

GOD BLESS!!!!