

MAYORS SPEECH DURING THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD IN LADY FRERE TOWN HALL ON THE 17 DECEMBER 2013

Speaker

Executive Committee

Chief whip

Councillors at large

Traditional councils (Traditional leaders) representing various

Municipal Management and the entire workforce

Government departments & the parastatals

Members of the public and the media

I greet you this afternoon

As the Emalahleni Municipal council we have managed to deliver services to our people thus far with the support, dedication and commitment shown by all the roleplayers in our area of jurisdiction.

This year we have managed to launch the development we believe immediately will hit the ground and change the face of our area for good as it will ensure that the area is able to create more jobs both formal and informal. This development afforded us an opportunity amongst other things to get a nod and the backing from the department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reforms as Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete attended the launch and pledge support.

To add to our glorious moments we have managed to see the technological advancements in our lifetime and leadership thanks to the brave man and women who brought us this democracy we are celebrating. The likes of the internationally acclaimed icon our

beloved former President, tata Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi, Govan Mbeki, John Langalibalele Dube, ZK Mathews, Chris Hani, Oliver Reginald Tambo to mention but few our political activists. Stoney Croft junior secondary school this year is amongst the schools in the area, district, province, country and the world where children at the tender age can be able to access the globe using the latest technology as they now have a fully fledged and operational computer laboratory, thanks to the Department of Communications and USAASA for the good work they are doing in changing the lives of our people.

In deed we are now beginning to yield fruits of the fact that we were nominated to benefit to the broadband pilot project where we are anticipating a situation whereby access to the network waves using poles and wires will be the thing of the past. The broadband will decrease the price we pay and ensure that the speed we use to access the network improves.

The council as part of the developments to the engagements and the participation we have last year on the African continent debating issues of Local Economic Development (Dakar in Senegal) the Mayor attended the Council of local cities which was held in Rabat, Morocco as the special guest. This is the rear opportunity for the municipality of our size thanks to the relationship we have with the City of Dordrecht in Netherlands.

The engagements we have as the council yield good results and the recognition by the African continent of a small rural municipality which make us proud as the leaders at the forefront acknowledging the role which was played by the former leadership former Mayors Cllr Gobingca(the late) and Cllr Nolitha Lali with the councillors and management then.

It is humbling to announce that due to the manner in which we conducted ourselves while attending the African continent engagements with the world on capacity building and local economic development I have been nominated and tasked with an enormous responsibility of championing the interaction of the cities and local authorities checking for the solutions on issues like capacity building and local economic development.

On the Intergovernmental Relations engagements ladies and gentlemen we are improving as departments and the parastatals now are responding positively to our invitations to this so important platform that is created by the legislation to make it a point that government is working in collaboration.

On the Presidential hotline we are doing better as we are for the better part of the year sitting at more than 90% on the resolution rate, to be specific at the moment we are sitting at 92.65% and we are hoping to achieve 100% in 2014.

As the municipality we can attest to the fact that we are moving on the right direction as we have managed this time around to keep record of all the activities taking place in our area and monitor progress made in all aspects by getting reports continuously so that there is nothing that is going/happening unnoticed.

Speaker and the council, we heard of the passing on of the giant of the African ancestry, the father of the nation, an international beloved icon, former president of the African National Congress, the first Chief Commander of the MK, former president of South Africa and as Emalahleni we did as the President of the republic President Honorable Jacob Zuma announced ten days from the 06 December as the period of mourning.

We attended on invitation the memorial service which was organized by the district at Engcobo, Provincial in Port Elizabeth and our own which was held in Lady Frere town hall. We hosted the viewing of the funeral at Dordrecht youth centre using the equipment we have to gather members of our communities under one roof to observe this historic moment on our home soil.

This year was the year of note for our council as we have managed to pilot the support of the heritage initiatives in our area as we have hosted in Bowden, ward 7 the commemoration of our struggle heroes in Luvuyo Lerumo and Qonda Hoho and in ward 10 we supported the community initiative in celebrating the life of Major Themba Zumana using sport as the tool to unite the community of that ward in partnership with the department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

We welcomed with the greatest sadness the news of the passing on of one of the initiates this season. This is a situation that is alien to our area as the custom is well known and practised to the best of our ability and as such we regret this single incident and as such we commit our efforts to ensure that this never happen again as the death of one person is equal to the death of many in a family.

It is clear that man are doing their level best but as mothers we are the ones who are suffering most when a child is no more as we take back the pain from the early months when the baby was still conserved, the tender age up until hope is raised that another man in the family is raised.

We are with his family in this dark hour, may his soul rest in peace.

Christmas message

That time of the year already arrived where we will be enjoying the festivities with our families. As leaders we must think about those who will not at all have something to enjoy with their loved ones and embark on an initiative to invite or contribute to one vulnerable family in our community.

We must adopt an attitude of building a caring society that is united in times of sorrow and joy and as such visit or rather understand when there is baby born in our villages and towns as we normally know when someone passed on.

When travelling back home to our families we must obey the rules of the road by refraining from the bad behaviour that is displayed by other road users, that of drinking and driving, the usage of vehicles that are not roadworthy and giving our vehicles to irresponsible children claiming to love them while we are destroying them in the process.

We must go back home and relax with our families, take care of our children and women as well as husbands and their entire community and people we will interact with this time. We must learn to cherish our love, laughter and joy to the fullest as if there is no tomorrow.

Please pass our deepest appreciation to your families for affording us an opportunity to be with you for the better part of the year. Please offload and come back next year with the total commitment to serve the people we oath to serve.

Have a lovely joyous Christmas and a happy new year.

Thank you