



**RAYMOND
MHLABA**
MUNICIPALITY

UMANYANO KUPHUHLLISO

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MAYOR: CLLR NOMHLE SANGO
MAIDEN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
30TH JANUARY 2023

Honourable Speaker of Council, Cllr Thozama Ngaye

Honourable Chief Whip, Cllr Nonkazimlo Mlamlala

Members of the Executive Committee

MPAC Chairperson, Cllr Zikhona Tyhali

Women's Caucus Chairperson, Cllr Nonkoliseko Qawu

Inkosi zelizwe lakowethu

Municipal Manager and your Management Team

Abahlali abakhoyo kunye nathi namhlanje

Ndiyanibulisa

Allow me to take this opportunity and forward our warm and fraternal greetings to everyone. It is important that I salute the solid foundation laid by Cllr Zingiswa Rasmeni when deployed into this crucial seat of government. I fully applaud her capable leadership primarily on the political stability that we continue to enjoy up until this day. It is through her dedication and solid leadership that we continue to preside over an institution that is both politically managed and administrative stable. Having said the above, we must appreciate the opportunity given to us by our political home to lead an important institution such as Raymond Mhlaba Municipality. Our organisation has granted us political authority to be custodians of the interests of the masses of our people, a task we fully accept.

We have been given a total responsibility to be a vehicle upon which hopes, and aspirations of our people must be channelled through. It is equally vital that we remind ourselves that our very own bible which is the Freedom Charter states that “ the people shall govern” and as such we have a duty of ensuring that our people are indeed governing by fully representing them with utmost loyalty and commitment.

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As public representatives, we must prioritise closing the gap between us and our communities by promoting public participation.The lack of constant interaction between us as Cllrs and our own communities contributes to many of the social unrest, despite others being political orchestrated. We must prioritize community engagements as it is the most effective and viable tool that enables us to have clarity on the existing societal challenges including possible solutions. We are duty bound to strengthen working relations with our local stakeholders in order to improve the public-private partnership

President Ramaphosa continues to emphasise on the importance of consolidating relations with our social partners because they are the backbone of our democracy. As we celebrate our 29 years of democracy and freedom, it is fundamental that we strengthen cooperation with our social partners such as, religious fraternity, sport bodies, traditional councils, vulnerable groups, business communities, rate payers, NGO's, NPO's etc.We can make our democracy work if we continue to improve working relations with our social partners given the important roles they play in our own communities. A vibrant and healthy sectoral engagement will definitely ease some of the challenges we continue to witness within our areas ***kuba xa siphathisene singenza lukhulu***

Our key mandate is to be true servants of our people by closing the existing gap between us and the people. Our manifesto directs us to prioritize the provision of quality services to the masses of our people. Our manifesto dictates to us to never betray our people by committing acts of wrongdoing that may compromise the provision of services to them. We are being instructed to serve our people with diligence and humility.We are being forced to be an exemplary leadership that is always true to the values of Batho-Pele.More than ever before, our collective leadership has a mammoth tasks of ensuring that we preserve the pillars of the Batho-Pele principles such as :transparency, accountability, integrity and value for money.More than ever before, our collective leadership should inspire confidence and hope during these most trying and challenging times facing our country.As leaders, we have a responsibility to provide leadership during trying, challenging including good times. ***Akufuneki sibe zinkokheli ezikhokela xa kumnandi ze xa kukubi, sibe ngabokuqala ukukhalaza and shift the blame. Masilukhulele uxanduva!***

More than ever before, our collective leadership should strive to maintain unity and cohesion within the political leadership. The unity within the political leadership helps to create a conducive environment for service delivery to flourish. A united political leadership helps provide a stable administrative environment which is a necessary for all of us to discharge our responsibilities. We must continue to emphasize that the unity of ourselves as politicians is sacrosanct because a divided Council will compromise our ability to provide quality service delivery. It is pivotal that we stressed on the importance of unity so much that we must never compromise our obligation of preserving unity because unity is a bedrock upon which we must consolidate the gains of our freedom and democracy that many fought and died for. We are emphasizing on the unity of leadership primarily because political instability causes our people to lose their trust and confidence to our institutions of governance.

It is equally important that we fully grasp that our collective unity should never be substituted by our individual interests. In many instances, our collective unity is always compromised by interests that at times have no meaningful contribution to the well-being of our institution. It is pivotal that we remind ourselves that political instability is a cancer that we must fight and reject. It is pivotal that we emphasize that political instability tends to be the main cause of the collapse of good governance. We must internalise this one, once we allow political instability amongst our ranks, we will compromise our ability to provide leadership over the administration arm and by extension fail our people as our attention will be divided. We have all witnessed in other parts of the country the disastrous effects caused by political instability which in the end may collapse the very same institutions including service delivery.

At the center of our duty is to ensure that collectively and individually, we exercise active oversight over the administration. All the legislative and constitutional prescripts outline our responsibility which is to provide political guidance over the administrative arm. We must emphasize that the promotion of good governance is the cornerstone of oversight because the lack or poor oversight may dent and compromise our political authority, something that we can't afford. As Cllrs, we must give priority in attending to our deployment in various committees of Councils as this is mandatory. The efficiency of Council Committees will help to strengthen our capacity in exercising oversight because most items/ operational issues are process in these Council committees

We must continue to emphasize that regular and compulsory participation in Council committees and activities is mandatory for all Cllrs. We are mainly emphasizing on these basic principles of political oversight in order to ensure that Cllrs have a clear sense of duty of what is expected from them because political oversight serves as an instrument that we must use to provide political guidance and leadership at all material times.

We continue to maintain that women emancipation is a cornerstone for a non-sex sexist society that we strive to achieve. We remain convinced that our struggle will never be complete without the total emancipation of women from all forms of injustices. Our government continues to prioritize gender equity in order to create a just world order for all our people. Our government has significantly contributed to the implementation of gender parity in every lever of society. Despite this rigorous agenda of repositioning women as equal role players in the development our society, we continue to witness barbaric and backward acts that portray women as objects and subjects respectively. This backward tendency owes roots from the stubborn and untransformed posture of patriarchy. The cult of patriarchy is responsible for the sustained arrogance of masculinity. These abnormalities can be closely linked to the violent nature of our society which has visible shaken the moral fibre our society at large.

It is extremely unfortunate that despite the significant strides to reposition women as key role players in the reconstruction of our society, women continue to bear the brunt of violent and sexual assault in all fronts. The acts of violence against children, women, gays, and lesbians have brought to the fore that masculinity is a fundamental challenge that we must decisively confront. The continued vicious attacks, brutal killing of women, sexual molestation of children may potentially compromise our noble cause in reconstructing a prosperous society as envisaged in the Freedom Charter.

We must stand tall and totally rejects the blatant murdering of innocent souls by soulless characters. The struggle against Gender Based Violence requires our collective efforts. We can defeat the GBV endemic if we all join hands and ensure that these acts are reported to the law enforcement agencies. In our own communities, we must join hands with CPF and all progressive formations that are leading the fight against GBV and crime.

We have a competent judiciary system that continues to demonstrate that these perpetrators don't deserve to live with us. We cannot allow our streets and communities to be safe heaven for criminals, rape perpetrators, and child molesters. Our commitment in building safer communities must be understood within the context that GBV is an endemic and a serious threat to our young girls and their future. We must emphasize that Gender Based Violence awareness programmes should not be event orientated but rather continuous programmes. Our municipality must strengthen its Women's Caucus and Special Programmes Unit for these campaigns to effectively find expression.

We have seen a decay in the moral fibre of our society, and we must breathe life to the moral regeneration movement within our institutions. As an institution, we must continue to play a pivotal role in programmes of this magnitude.

The following are the key challenges confronting the municipality that requires our immediate attention:

- Cumulative Eskom Debt
- Aging Infrastructure
- Thin Revenue Base
- Poor roads network (internal streets, internal roads within our villages)
- Housing backlogs (Human Settlement)

We must have a collective leadership that will collectively take responsibility on the current challenges and provide solutions to the existing challenges. We must strengthen collaborative relations with other state entities in order to improve the provision of quality services. We must strengthen our resolve to mobilize resources by engaging various entities in order improve the dire financial situation of the municipality. It is equally pivotal that we emphasize on the need to implement the Consequence Management in our goal of promoting good governance.

We must strengthen the sectoral engagements as we strive to promote public participation and community outreach programme as we seek to bring government closer to the people. We must work tirelessly with all our stakeholders in order to improve our revenue base which is very thin in our quest to increase our revenue collection rates.

I am very much hopeful that working together we can do more and move Raymond Mhlaba Municipality forward. We have a capable management that continues to complement our political work and ensure that our municipality reach its intended objectives. We will build from this solid background and ensure that a sound political dichotomy prevails and is sustained.

