

**State of Municipal Address (SOMA) Speech by Hon.
Mayor, Clr. JL Mathebe**

Ntwane Village, Sport Ground

25th July 2015

Warm Greetings to all

As your servant I am humbled to address you on this important date. This occasion happens during this important July month in the history of our municipality, our district, the province, and the country. It is humbling that we came in our masses to mark the commemoration of the historical “individual and collective time contribution to serve”. Today, as the leadership collective, we are **launching the programme for living each day as Mandela day”” for the next 100 days and beyond.**

Programme Director, we were humbled by the warm welcome that Kgoshi Mathebe and his royal house hosted us in the morning to mark the launch of “ **transforming our people’s resting places”, and making them dignified.**

*Re kgamathetse marole, Kgoshi Mathebe le setshaba ka moka, bjale kage re rata go bontsha maikemisetso a go ba “**the***

servant leaders”Re thomile goseng go kolomaka mabitla a Ntwane, Malaeneng le Kau Magana. This programme will continue until we cover all our 84 rural cemeteries.

Programme Director, as the local leadership in Elias Motsoaledi, we have listened and heard the President well during his **State of the National Address (SONA)**. I want to commit my comrades, compatriots and colleagues across all the political parties representing all our people in this municipality that we have understood and taken serious the President’s call when he stated that this beautiful country ours needs to embark on **radical socio-economic transformation to push back the triple challenges of INEQUALITY, POVERTY and UNEMPLOYMENT.**

We noted the initiative of Government putting in place a programme of action based on the African National Congress Manifesto and the National Development Plan which will guide us to streamline the economic development initiatives. Allow me Programme Director, to remind all of us converged here today about the key focus mandates that the President alluded to in his marching orders that through the programme of action of government is aimed to **boost economic intervention, to improve service delivery, to strengthen partnerships**

between government and the people, as well as all sectors, including business and labour

Baheso, whilst the other spheres of government leaders have their plans for the coming five years, we at local government this year being our mid-term period, we are going to adopt an aggressive approach in moving our municipality forward despite a challenging economical situation. We want to remain **focussed on job creation and working towards financial stability of our area and the region** so that we can innovately and tirelessly promote self-determination and increase sustainability.

For the financial stability in the long term, Programme Director, we understand that this depend on **getting our people back to work**. I believe that we have potential as the municipality more so that Elias Motsoaledi is identified as one of the provincial economic growth point. Secondly, our municipality is relatively rich in job opportunities, and the fact is some of our people do not benefit from these opportunities, and Programme Director, we pledge to address this and unlock the bottlenecks by:

- Attracting new economic development proposals that will create job opportunities that are locally sustainable. This we

will do through the finalisation of the **Local Economic Development Strategy.**”

Noting that our municipality is currently depended on grants for implementing the capital project for service delivery, it is important that we revive the **Masakhane programme** to unleash the revenue base. This , the municipality will fast track the **tenure upgrade** in the areas which are ready such as **Tambo township, Moteti, Tafelkop Stadium View**. We will start with the provision of refuse removal service and gradually within the tenure upgrade programme phase in the proclamation so that we can fully provide the payable services.

Our municipality is gradually benefiting from the support provided by the district, and province with regard to the implementation of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), to date we can report that R1, 1 million has been allocated for this financial year, which will create 50 direct jobs.

Through the partnership with private sector, the refuse removal programme and land fill site management project yielded 125 direct jobs opportunities.

However, Programme Director, we have the challenge to outgrow our “localised comfort zone, it is the time that Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality is known outside the borders of Sekhukhune district and Limpopo province. Plans are underway for our municipality to participate in the “Greenest Municipality Competition”, and part of the 100 days turnaround programme is to ensure that all the corners of our municipality with potential landscaping opportunities are address and support the emerging young entrepreneurs (SMMEs) to lead the implementation of this project.

Magoshi a Rena, re kgopela thusho go Lena, go bjala moya wa tirishano le setshaba, We want our municipality to be a safe place. Minister Gordhan, has explicitly challenged the local government to clean its house and root out fraud and corruption. We support the move, and we will leave no stone unturned to redeem the credibility of our municipality in forging forward a **“Zero tolerant attitude to corruption”**.

We pledge the support to our emerging SMMEs and Cooperatives, to grow. This the municipality will ensure through the support and making available the technical and resources to capacitate these groups and afford them the opportunity to service the municipality.

For the month of August, as we celebrate women's month and we will be hosting the provincial event, on the 09th August, however, we want to call upon all the **women to grasp the opportunity of being part of the cooperatives**, which through the Mayoral outreach programmes we will provide one-stop service support to ensure that the cooperatives are registered

As I conclude, Programme Director, I want to invite the community across all our wards, to join their ward councillors and other stakeholders on embarking in the “**Hand on Community Work**” by cleaning all our cemeteries, whereby the municipality pledge to build the ablution/ toilets at each rural cemetery.

A re beleganeng, hand in hand, together let us move our municipality forward and make it a better place than it was before 1994.

Realeboga