



The Office of the Executive Mayor

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ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR-ELECT OF MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR DANNY THUPANE ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 20th APRIL 2023 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MOGALE CITY

Speaker of Council,

Leaders of the Government of Local Unity,

Honourable Councillors,

Municipal Manager, Makhosana Msezana and members of your executive committee,

Leaders of Civil Society Organisations including business, sports bodies, religious groupings and other stakeholders here present.

People of Mogale City represented here and all those who have joined us through various modes of communication,

We wish to express our gratitude to the collective of the Government of Local Unity for placing confidence in the newly elected Troika, being certain of the fact that this political management team will help steer the municipality towards a higher plane of inclusive and sustainable service delivery for the remainder of the 2021-2026 political term of office. It is a responsibility that we do not take for granted and which we will execute with the utmost dedication and passion.

The people of Mogale City deserve nothing less than a dedicated, empathetic, listening, and responsive government that is in touch with their wants and needs.

Our first order of business is to urgently assemble a formidable Mayoral Committee Team that will be able to meet the expectations of the people of our city and will thus hit the ground running.

We will announce the names of the team within the next forty-eight hours.

Speaker, that will be done because we have no luxury of time to ponder over who or who should not be in the team that will execute the task of bringing back this municipality to the days of glory where we saw it punch above its weight in matters of service delivery and good governance. We have no time to squabble about who or who does not fit the bill in the team that has the singular responsibility to make this city take its rightful place again alongside the metros of the province in terms of attraction and retention of investment.

We will knuckle down to the basics in the coming days. We have always known and have also recently seen that it has always been possible to deliver services to the people even in extraordinary hours of the day. We have over the last year and a few months seen potholes in the streets of the CBD and suburbs being closed during very awkward hours of the day. Some of them at night.

It is abundantly clear that this kind of service can be extended to the people in the townships and our peri-urban areas in a similar vein. There is absolutely no excuse for one section of our city to receive services while another is neglected. Residents need to be able to walk, drive or exercise on our streets without hindrance.

We also do not need to be reminded that one of the signs of the presence of government is when roads are properly marked.

Working closely with the accounting officer, Mr Makhosana Msezana, and his team, we will zoom in on those areas that hinder service delivery on the system, unlock them through deployment of necessary resources so that we are able to do basic things right and provide quality service on time to residents.

We refer here to things like beautification programs that include grass cutting across the city, cleaning our cemeteries, elimination of dumping sites and timeous collection of waste, increasing capacity to deal adequately with waste around the city as well as finding creative ways to use waste to reduce our carbon footprint.

We are also talking about concerns raised by communities over disruption in water supply, which often happens without being communicated. It should not be repeated that to do so is to trample on the basic human rights of our residents because provision of clean drinking water is enshrined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

We will enter into a drive to make our public amenities accessible and usable for all residents. We have always been a clean city where residents took pride in their assets, and we are duty-bound to urgently return to that kind of city.

We will strengthen our cooperation with agencies and entities of government and the private sector to ensure a steady supply of energy to households across the city. Even though it is a national problem, we will look at creative ways that will cushion the residents of Mogale City from the devastating effects of load shedding.

We will work closely with SALGA to ensure that there is cooperation and exchange of ideas and best practice between ourselves and like-minded municipalities. This we will do in order to reverse the adverse effects that negative audits of municipal finances have on the reputation and standing of the city. We have to improve urgently.

We will ensure that opportunities are spread far and wide in the city in order for residents to claw back against or recover from the economic effects of Covid-19 which all of us still experience to this very day. None of our residents should feel excluded from this revival that we are committed to foster and execute forthwith.

We are aware of the effects of a sluggish economy on the pockets of our residents, and this has been eloquently articulated by dwindling revenue that is received by the municipality. However, we encourage residents including our corporate residents who are able to pay for services to do so on a constant and consistent basis.

The municipality will remain constrained, and services handicapped if it does not collect adequately for services rendered.

We will augment these financial resources through actively tapping into the various funds on offer at both the provincial and national government level so that we can adequately capitalise and implement projects of the municipality.

We also encourage those who meet the criteria for indigent registration to take advantage of that service so that the municipality can get a clear picture of where its revenue currently comes from, and to know who among residents of the city require assistance. Speaker, we are not new in the local government system.

We have been in the system from the times of transition and have seen through transformation of the local government system over three decades. Over the period we have learnt that residents cooperate when they are truly and honestly engaged in the affairs of their municipality.

We will encourage all councillors to knit themselves into the everyday lives of their constituencies, communicate progress without gloating, to admit shortcomings honestly, and also to seek advice from the people because, after all, THIS IS THEIR MUNICIPALITY. We call on the entire staff complement of our municipality, from the bottom to the top echelons of the institution to rally behind this new mood and direction.

We know that we have a workforce that is second to none and together let us bring back that Mogale City that we all know and are proud of, like you have demonstrated before when you made this municipality win various municipal awards and accolades locally and internationally.

The Government of Local Unity is endowed with a variety of viewpoints. Our differences are the jewel of our city. It is a combination of well-meaning patriots who want to see this city prosper beyond any measure. Therefore, it is from this well of wisdom that we will constantly draw in order to accelerate service delivery even to those of our people who reside in far-flung areas, informal settlements and those who feel or are actually marginalised.

Let us all join hands together to build our beautiful City of Human Origin.

I thank you!