

ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF VHEMBE DISTRICT CLLR LERULE-RAMAKHANYA MAVHUNGU DURING THE LUNCH / ENGAGEMENTS WITH SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS AT 2TEN HOTEL, THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT AT 11H00

22 MARCH 2019

Program Director, Fridah Nkondo

Our Senior Traditional Leaders na Misanda yothe

Local Mayors

Our Chief whip and the Speaker

Members of the Mayoral Committee

The Chairperson of Vhembe House of Traditional Leaders

The Chairperson of Contralesa

Media Houses

Comrades and Friends

Avhari ndi thome ngau losha!

Let me take this opportunity to pay special tribute to all the Senior Traditional Leaders and Misanda yothe who responded to our call at a very short notice. With my greetings I offer tribute to the diversity of our great land, and to rich cultural tapestry on which the story of our people and their history has been woven since the dawn of time.

Today's event happens on an important period in the life of our nation. The 21st March is South African Human Rights Day, it is a day which, more than many others captures the essence of the struggle of South African People and the soul of our non-racial democracy. 21st March is the day on which we remember and sing praises to those who perished in the name of democracy and human dignity. It is also a day on which we reflect and assess the progress we are making in enshrining basic human rights and values.

We have dedicated this year's Human Rights Day celebrations to promote indigenous languages as a fundamental part of building a human rights culture. As part of our commitment to empower and foster respect for the rights of people with disabilities, a proposal has been submitted to Parliament to elevate South African Sign language to the status of an official language. At the same vein, from April this year, the very first Xitsonga drama series will premiere on SABC like Muvhango. It is a symbol that we are a nation united in our diversity.

On an occasion such as this, we need to pay homage to those heroes and heroines of our people who paid for our liberation with their lives. Their names are forever etched on the scroll of our history and they will never be forgotten.

Program director, in brief, let me just say that much of the violence and conflict we experience in our communities arise

from greed or disrespect for the rules of common decency and the values of living in harmony with those around us. There are leaders who steal from their people. There are also those who find nothing wrong in mocking and insulting their leaders as if this is acceptable. There are men who abuse their wives. Some even kill them, whilst there are also women who hatch plots to kill their husbands. But at the same breath, it is well known country wide that in Vhembe is a daily bread in terms of barbaric act of ritual killings for the purpose of muti. I want to invite all of us to join hands in gloves in fighting such barbaric acts.

We need every effort to be made by the traditional and community leadership to reorganise communities and the family as an institution. The undeniable truth is that people who do all these terrible things live among us and not on an island of their own.

Program Director, this engagement came 25 years after the birth of democracy and Freedom in our country came at a huge cost. Many were imprisoned whilst others paid with their lives. Throughout the eighties, the traditional leaders became the voices against apartheid heresy. With the help of the traditional leaders and pastors we obtained our liberation in 1994 and since then millions of South Africans have been provided with access to housing, health care, basic services and social welfare protection. Free education on primary and over two

million students in our institutions of higher learning and vocational training colleges are receiving free education.

If we are to fulfil the promise made at the dawn of democracy in 1994, we need to transform our economy to ensure it benefits us all. We are on an ambitious drive to industrialise, to attract investment and to create more jobs for our people.

True Freedom comes with responsibility. Let us cherish and protect this freedom by respecting one another and by living responsibly. Government buildings as well our water infrastructures which our people depend on are being vandalised and even destroyed by the thieves and we want to appeal to Traditional Leaders to assist us in fighting against such barbaric acts.

Chapter 11 of the Constitution of the Republic recognised the institution, status and the roles of traditional leadership according to customary law. And the ANC government acknowledges the critical role which you are playing in our democracy and within the communities, particularly in relation to the rural development strategy. It is therefore remains committed to strengthening the institution of traditional leadership.

Our legislation has also opened up an opportunity for municipalities and traditional councils to achieve cooperative

governance. Thus why it is imperative for us as elected government representatives to keep on updating and strengthen our working relationship with traditional leaders on service delivery matters. The people we are governing belong to the land of traditional leaders.

The establishment of local houses of traditional leaders deepens and cements the relationship between the municipalities and traditional leaders on customary law and development initiatives.

Program Director, I will not be doing justice if I failed to update Traditional Leaders in some of the progress we have made since I have been elected into the office from 14th December 2018 to date as part of Mayoral 100 days in the office:

1. The municipality was characterized by sour labour relations that led to poor water and sanitation especially on operation and maintenance, for the past 100 days we have managed to revitalize the local bargaining structure so as to resolve the main issues.
2. 140 boreholes operator's posts were advertised in this regards which will be filled within three months from now.
3. Additional more than 100 positions for water services to serve in the same directorate will be advertised in the next financial year.

4. Two Fire Fighting Trucks has been purchased and handed over to the community services department on the 08th March 2019 as part of showing commitment of our district as caring institution in the fight against fire and destruction of property by fire. And one additional Fire Engine Truck will be purchased before end of June this year.
5. An engineer has been appointed on the 01st March who will complete the outstanding work including water connection by the end of April 2019 at Shigalo fire station and the station will be functional before end of June 2019.
6. Municipality revenue collection improved from R22M to R30M during 100 days

The following stalled projects were unlocked

1. Mulima, Likhade,Lambani and Pfananani water supply and reticulation project is completed and will be officially handing over to the community on the 30th April 2019.
2. Budeli,Mutoti and Dumasi water supply reticulation will be handed over to the community just within three weeks from now on the 05th April 2019

The following are WSIG Projects for 2018/2019

1. Handing over of Matshavhawe, Khunda borehole and construction of rising main and street taps will be on the 01st May 2019.

2. Refurbishment of Dzingahe package plant, boreholes and connection is nearly completion and project will be officially handed to the community on the 03rd May 2019.
3. On the 16th April 2019, Makhado rural sanitation at Magau and Tshikuwi will be handed over to its beneficiaries.

The following WSIG Projects are going to be implemented in the 2019/2020 financial year under Makhado Municipality

1. Drilling of boreholes at Tshakhuma Mutsindoni and Mpheni 3 with an amount of R2,1M
2. Electrification of boreholes, testing and equipping of boreholes at Doli, Vuvha and Zamekomste, Muraleni, Mandiwana, Mamuhohi, Vleifontein with an amount of R8,5M
3. Construction of VIP facilities with an amount of R3M

The following WSIG Projects are going to be implemented in the 2019/2020 financial year under Thulamela Municipality

1. Drilling of boreholes at Guyuni Matanda, Manenzhe 2 with an amount of R2,4M
2. Electrification of borehole at Makonde 5 and Guyuni ha Dagada with an amount of R500 000
3. Testing and equipping of boreholes at Makonde 2, 3, 4, Mangondi, Dzwerani, Tshitandani, with an amount of R1,250M

4. Construction of VIP facilities with an amount of R2,5M
5. Geo hydrological investigation and drilling of boreholes at Mbilwi and Tshifura with an amount of R1,55M
6. Construction of sewer line at Thohoyandou G with an amount of R4M

The following WSIG Projects are going to be implemented in the 2019/2020 financial year under Collins Chabane Municipality

1. Refurbishment of Vuwani maturation ponds with an amount of R1M
2. Electrification of boreholes, testing and equipping of boreholes at Mbhalati and Davhana with an amount of R500 000
3. Construction of VIP facilities with an amount of R3M

On local Economic Development Initiatives

Challenges surrounding Awelani Eco Lodge that were at a stage of litigations, all the bottleneck were unlocked and the lodge employed 25 local community members permanently and the project will be handed over before end of April 2019

As I step down program director, together, let us deepen the culture of human rights and become true human rights activists committed to dignity, freedom, justice and equality. On the 08th

May this year, the people of South Africa will be casting their vote for the 6th Democratic Government of their choices, we are appealing once more to all of us to go out in large numbers to ensure that President Matamela Ramaphosa who is one of our own came victoriously with more than 60% of voters. For us to achieve that Traditional Leaders must assist community members who needs proof of residents for the sake of election purposes if it needs be, free of charge.

I thank you all.