

Acceptance Speech by the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, His Worship, Maripe Mangena during the Council sitting on 17 August 2016 at Lenyenye Community Hall.

*Programme Director and Speaker of Council, Cllr Dikeledi Mmetle gh
Our Traditional Leadership from Bakgakga ba Maake, Mogoboya, Nkuna,
Xihoko, Nwamitwa, Modjadji and Mamabolo
Members of the Executive Committee
Chief Whip of the governing party
PR and Ward Councillors
The Municipal Manager, Mr Monakedi and your staff at large including
directors and managers
General Mathebula and the entire security cluster
Magistrate Mam Mahlo and your protocol
Pastors from various churches and religious leaders, Kgotsong, alleluia.
I also want to extend my greetings to the media, ward committees,
members of the opposition and all the stakeholders
I am honoured to stand before you here today as the newly elected
Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality
I am grateful for the honour and responsibility bestowed upon me by the
ANC and the community of Greater Tzaneen Municipality
I duly accept the responsibility and vow to serve the people of this
municipality with humility, respect and fairness.*

It is in this context that I pledge you, i pledge myself (my total being) to the new workings for and with the people of the Greater Tzaneen. Everybody and everyone getting involved.

I also vow to respect and protect the constitution of the republic of South Africa and all the laws of this country as i took oath.

I thank all my predecessors, the mayors who occupied this office before me, Thank you for laying a concrete foundation from which I promise to build on.

Mayor OJ Mushwana who served as a mayor from 2000 to 2011, Mayor Dikeledi Mmetle who served from 2011 until 2016,

Thank you so much for the services to our people, thank you so much for your sacrifices to our nation, your contribution is highly appreciated.

I will consult you for advice. keep your doors opened.

Fellow Councillors

This month we marked the 60th anniversary of the women's march that took place in Pretoria, where women from all races, from all places, religions and across the political spectrum demonstrated to the the union buildings.

The union building at the time was occupied by leaders of the most brutal regime in the history of this country. Our women were brave enough to protest despite all the risk of losing their lives.

Wa thinthi mfazi. wathinti mbokodo,

Fellow citizens, we know that our people have been yearning for a government that listens, a government that acts on allegation of

corruption, a government that does not collapse because of its obsession with individuals, government that responds to their voices.

Our people have been calling for a municipality that does things the right way in line with the manifesto they voted for without deviations.

A municipality that delivers on new infrastructure and protects its existing one.

Our people want simple basic things, they want clean drinking water, sanitation, proper roads, decent houses, sports facilities, public parks, electricity and waste collection even in rural areas.

In this term, we are going to do things differently. We are going to drastically improve the way we serve our people because we run a people-centric government which focuses on poverty alleviation and other programmes that seek to change the living conditions of our people.

Madam speaker

On the 3rd of August 2016, millions of South Africans went to the polls to express their preference in respect to local government leadership.

In the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, resident again expressed their confidence in the ANC by giving it an overwhelming majority. The ANC secured 52 seats out of the 69.

Voters gave the ANC the mandate to continue with its second phase of the radical transformation agenda.

On behalf of the governing party and all councillors we accept the responsibility and we are prepared to shoulder it with commitment for we are in a continuous process of development.

The process of governance is unending. Even if we were to give residents all their desires and needs the need for elections and service delivery will always exist..

We are aware that there will be a district wide inauguration for all five local municipalities municipalities.

It is against that understanding that we wish to speak to the following aspects which must be our target for the next five years of council as articulated in the manifesto of the governing party and chosen by our people.

Our role is to localise those aspects each year during our State of the Municipal Address (SOMA), where we will be reviewing progress made.

To deepen *participatory democracy and further strengthen working relations and shared visions and objectives*

The office of the Mayor and EXCO will line up to meet the following accordingly

All seven traditional authorities

-Tzaneen Business Forum

-AgriForum

-Religious groups

-Media Houses

-Workers unions

-professional bodies.

key service delivery departments.

Sport bodies, the education sectors and the informal business community

All councillors and the Public Participation office must as soon as possible adopt a programme to establish ward committees, sub-ward

committees, ward youth development forums, stakeholders forum and lay foundation for harmonious working relations.

Madam Speaker

The programmes must clearly state the day and the central venue for the State of the Ward Address in June of each year, where the ward councillor must give account of what happened in the previous financial year up to the adopting of the budget by 31st May as well as plans for the new financial year that starts 1st July. June is in the middle and very ideal to explain to the voters.

Fellow councillors

Each politically deployed cllr has been given a specific task and all must just do their job without overlapping. period.

In the same breath. all residents must be invited to our ward community meetings to avoid service delivery protest.

Those who do not have evidence of attending community meetings to raise and deal with community issues must be viewed as engaging in criminal acts if they block roads for services for they may not be aware of government's plans for their areas.

Madam speaker

There is a general public perception that GTM workers are more into politics than doing their work. That perception must be defeated at all costs through our own work and actions without trying to explain.

To the municipal manager, we will mercilessly hold you accountable for the general discipline of the entire workforce of the GTM.

These councillors, Madam Speaker, will not preside over workers who do not know their boundaries or respect the taxpayers.

We, however, are fully aware that there are those within the workforce who are hardworking, dedicated and committed to their work. You must continue to do so, we love you and we appreciate your contribution.

To our administration we are saying:

Do right with legal fees

Do right on supply chain management

Employ the right people who know what the communities need.

Service the people for they are the reason you are employed.

Before anything goes out of this municipality make sure it is legally sound to forestall unnecessary letigations/legal battles

Madam speaker

It is the view of the governing party that we must review our services and in-source those services where we have capacity to do so internally.

From the 2017/18 financial year litter picking, the patching of roads and gardening services and others must be in-sourced and people must be employed.

We must also broaden and strengthen our civil engineering department in order to improve our capacity to deliver sustainable basic services and speed up infrastructure development in our communities. Our civil engineering department is understaffed and must be capacitated because that's the engine for our key function.

As councillors we must never compromise on monitoring. We must play our oversight role on management effectively, without fear or favour for it

is us who know the implications and repercussions of shoddy work among our people. It causes them anger. Serious anger.

Madam Speaker

We must double our revenue collection if we are to remain afloat. We must expand our revenue base to rural areas where the majority of our people who work reside. We must stop the rhetoric and action our ideas.

Ward councillor must identify indigents and give them their share.

Let those who work pay for waste removal, water and sewer. Ultimately these will create more jobs and create sustainable livelihood.

Madam speaker, during your tenure as the Mayor you drastically and successfully reduced the electricity backlog that existed.

People are now connected but they still have Izinyoka. The relevant portfolio committee and Eskom must ensure that everyone who qualifies to pay do pay while we improve our FBE supply to the deserving.

In Tzaneen we have by-laws, we want to govern and ensure that there is law and order.

Our people have spoken; they say they don't want the noise that is made at night by liquor sellers,

No one has a license to play loud music that disturbs the neighbour's child who wants to study in order to build a future.

Traditional leaders and councillors, let's begin to run our country for that is what the majority is saying. Who must govern if we are reluctant?

I have already stated that our immediate task is to strengthen our harmony with business and service delivery departments

We invite our traditional authorities to awake to the opportunities in the GTM and government at large to create jobs for their people

Madam Speaker

We will schedule a meeting with GTEDA to plan to meet affected traditional authorities, LEDA and LEDET to deal with the revitalisation of the Nkowankowa Industrial park, Bindzulani Mall, Tours farm, Agropark, Magoebaskloof, Mosupatsela Farm, malls in Relela and Runnymede clusters.

We also want to review our LED strategy for all catalyst projects.

We want to do all of these to create employment opportunities for our people. GTM is not an employment agency but can create conducive environment.

*Fellow Councillors, I am pleased to note that our municipality is in the process of developing an economic development **incentive** policy as a strategy to attract investors.*

By the end of 2016, we will be adopting a new Local Economic Development strategy. It must be viewed as an enhancement to our ideal.

Madam Speaker and fellow councillors

We are in the second phase of the radical transformation in this fourth local government term.

In the light of the above, in the next few months the mayor will be guided to establish geographic names committee procedurally. It appears that the town of Tzaneen and its villages are in two different planets.

You cannot believe that in this municipality which is home to struggle heroes and heroines there is not a single street named in their honour.

It is in that spirit that the geographical names committee will begin to look into such revolutionary resolutions to change our posture.

We must all be prepared to participate and give democracy a real meaning.

Councillors must lead their wards in the process of naming streets in their respective wards particularly villages because we do not have street names. Giving an ambulance/police a direction is a nightmare. Nobody but us must transform this condition that is long overdue.

Madam speaker

We strongly recommend that education desk in the ward committee be strengthened like other desks for it to mobilise education stakeholders which, strictly speaking, most are in a state of disarray and require intervention. We shall work hard to make sure that the mayor's financial aid is transparent and must benefit the poorest of the poor in all the wards. We will continue to engage for the building of more libraries in the rural villages, for it is through them that our people wherever they are, can become powerful and forces to reckon with, through information from the book.

Fellow Councillors, political principals and stakeholders,

We must force sport integration into programmes that push/urge all villages and wards to participate.

All ward councillors must pride themselves in seeing their own constituencies actively involved in sport at various levels by taking an effort.

Our intention to cause dust from the villages through sport and culture must find resonance in our view that all four clusters must each host important municipal events annually.(i.e all other clusters must visit to the

hosting cluster of that event during that time. This will also foster social relations among our people and close social distance with leaders.

-Relela: Cultural and related activities

-Bulamahlo: Marathon and mountain climbing

-Runnymede: Soccer and related activities.

-Lesedi: Indoor games and related activities

The mayor's cup must rotate in these clusters even if it means happening on a dusty sport ground. That is where our people are.

This year's mayors Cup must coincide with the reopening of the Lenyenye Stadium which has undergone a multimillion rand refurbishment and is nearing completion. We must fill that stadium to prove that we and our people are one, across colour bar, together as residents enjoying our own free lives, organised by our own leaders.

In closing madam speaker, we look forward to working together through maximum cooperation and action which will make our people value elections.

It is incumbent upon us to nourish that view of respect for the electorate. Everybody and everyone change your attitude and get involved.

It is with great pride to announce that two female farmers from Tzaneen won provincial awards last night and they will be representing Limpopo in the national female entrepreneur of the Year awards. We must support them like we must do with all other national figures coming from our own GTM. We must create time with all of them and hail them.

We are the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

We tolerate no corruption!

We promote no tribalism!

We condemn ethnicity and racism!

We reject sexism and abuse!

We stand for unity and oneness!

We stand for progress!

We love progress!

We shall achieve for and with our people!

For we love Tzaneen!

We are bona fide residents of Tzaneen!

You can call us Tzaneenians if you want!

Together we shall build the GTM!

Safety and tranquillity will prevail!

I pledge you, I pledge myself,

to the new workings for and with the people of Tzaneen

Everybody and everyone getting involved

For we know that

the strength of a crocodile is in the water

Maatla a kwena a ka bodibeng

Matimba ya ngwenya yale matini

krokodile se kraag is in die water

I thank you one i thank you all.

