

**INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
THEMBA SINAMELA STADIUM**

10 SEPTEMBER 2011

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you and our distinguish guest

CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES - Baba uMninwa Mahlangu

Honourable Speaker of Council

Honourable Chief whip of Council

Honourable Members of Mayoral Committee

Honourable Speakers from our respective Sister Municipalities

Ward Councillors and Proportional Councillors

Capable Heads of Departments of Steve Tshwete Municipality

Representatives from government departments

Representatives from Parastatals

Hope of the Nation Our Precious Learners

Regional Secretary of ANC: Cde. Tommy Nkoana

Regional Secretary of ANC Woman's League: Cde. Nora Mabhena

Regional Secretary of MKVA Cde. Mropane

Leaders of ANC Youth League

Leaders and Members of opposition Parties

Leaders of Different Churches

Friends and Comrades

Ladies and Gentlemen

Talented people of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

Perhaps it is benefitting to greet you by sharing with you the joy I have in standing before you as the Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete, I am humbled by this huge task bestowed upon me.

I am confident that 2011 to 2016 will be one of the most remarkable years of our democracy as a municipality, as we all work together to realise the core aspiration of our people to attain a better life for all.

I speak here today in the presence of my mother, who came to see for herself if indeed her son has grown to be such a man to can lead the people not only people of anywhere but of such a glorious municipality.

Akusiko uku hlakanipha nokwazi kwami kodwa- intando ka Nkulunkulu, I believe he did not bring us here to leave no embarrass us, but he will guide and give us strength – to up sail like eagles.

Engikushoyo MamaMasina wukuthi uNkulunkulu wethembekile akayi kusishiya kodwa 'uzosinika ukuhlakanipha kwe Nkos' uSolomon na mandla woku bhekana nazo zonk' izimo sikhuphuke nje nge zinkozi.

Sons and Daughters of Steve Tshwete in every corner of our Municipal area whether you are living in Mhluzi, Middelburg, Hendrina, kwazamokuhle, Nazareth, Somaphepha, Doornkop, Butshabelo and ext 24, this is a time of hope.

Indeed I am humbled to have witnessed the period leading to the 18th of May and today as to some it seemed a matter of life and death when it was simple painful Democratic process. I stand here today as a living testimony that it does not matter how horrible your today may be but if God for chosen you tomorrow will be better since great leaders make it trough a baptism of fire.

We should be courageous as the descendants of villiants such as Chris Hani, Solomon Mahlangu, Themba Sinamela, Titiboy Zulu, January Ché Masilela who sacrificed their life's to attain this freedom.

As we would recall what Cde. Solomon Mahlangu said before he was slained "My blood will nourish the trees that will bear the fruit of freedom."

Today we put a positive mark in history by taking a batten in the revolutionary relay peacefully and democratically as our for bearers Chief Albert Luthuli, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Steve Tshwete and many heroes and heroines aspired for us.

Honourable chairperson of NCOP

I referred to our as a glorious municipality simple because we are featuring prominently on the map, as we are well known in South Africa for our big appetite of winning excellent awards, as you will that we have in our bag Vuna excellent award for the cleanest town in the country? The blue and green drop accreditation, allow me to explain that this means our water is so clean in that there is no possible health hazard.

Honourable Speaker!

I'm afraid we may sound too boasting if i may tell that recently we have recieved a clean audit report from the auditor General and out of the 3 Municipalities in Mpumalanga that received same we are leading. You will understand what a clean audit means, as corruption and maladministration is ravaging most institutions in our country this means at least in Steve Tshwete rate payers money is still put into good use.

While winning is in our genes However, we should not be too entangled in celebratory mood as so much work lies ahead.

Given that we are at the beginning of our mandate term, the Government decided in its local strategic lekgotla that it should identify a suite of Priorities on which it must focus in a special way, of course guided by our ANC local election manifesto.

The main categories of these priorities are:

*** Education and training**

enhancing the impact of our programmes targeting the critically important area of education we have embarked on a School visit campaign where we wanted to see for ourselves how our children and learners are coping and indeed we have realized as we continue with practical programme that the gap between the our public schools and former model "C" is unacceptable especially after 17years of democracy.

We have engaged the mining sector to form partnership in addressing the plight of our kids who are forced to roam around the streets after having completed Matric because of lack of money to further their studies, but not anymore. I am proud to announce that two major mining houses SHANDUKA and BHP BILLITIN Have pledged their support in ensuring availability of bursaries.

Honourable chairperson of NCOP

We have a local bursary fund named after one of our local academics ubaba uPaul Mthimunye, last Saturday we held their annual big walk Mhluzi to Bochabelo as an initiative to raise funds for this bursary fund, organized by our young star Adv. Mthokozisi Xulu on that walk I took part and *ngiba shiye bonke, angangi fakazela ubab' uMthimunye* (that was on a lighter note)but it was so fun and I have committed that next year's event will be the mother of all walks.

It should bring the whole town and township into a stand still all Citizens of Steve Tshwete should attend regardless of race; because this is an important initiative. Education is close to my heart, if you want our attention contribute to education.

Additional libraries will be provided in the township of Mhluzi and at rural villages.

HEALTH

* accelerating our advance towards the achievement of the goal of health for all

The Municipality will negotiate with the provincial Department of Health for additional clinics at various areas as identified in the IDP and with such cooperation, we will endeavor to extend clinic hours and provide more clinics especially in rural areas. Transversal issues will receive special and continuous attention. Over the next five years the fight against HIV and AIDS will receive special and dedicated attention.

Honourable Chief Whip,

You will remember that we have just won a SALGA excellent award on transversal issues. So rest assured we are Municipality that cares about the health of our people.

*We aim to intensify our offensive against crime

We will work hand in hand with the SAPS to promptly respond to the emerging crimes like drug trafficking and substance abuse which threatens the future of our youth, we are saddened by the last night unfortunate incidence where a senseless criminal shot and killed a dedicated police man inside the police station. We pass our heartfelt condolences to his family, we salute him and his coliques as they arrested this social misfit and I am confident that they will soldier on in the fight against crime. The high level of accident on our roads especially on the N4 demand that our traffic wardens work together with the Provincial Traffic Department and must adhere to the Provincial slogan "SIVUTHA UMLILO EMPUMALANGA"

HUMAN SETTLEMANT

Honourable chairperson of NCOP we are from a local strategic lekgotla and we were so taken a back as we received our local statistics about human settlement Hendrina Kwazamokuhle alone has about 2000 backyard dwellers, This is because we are surrounded by so many mines, Eskom Power Stations and other industries, as a result there is a huge influx of people from neighbouring municipalities and countries, as many leave their countries for **Johannesburg** they *offramp* in Middelburg, find comfort and decide to settle within Steve Tshwete.

These put a measure strain in our human settlement efforts, as housing back log is still a national challenge. Hence we have taken a decision to request Mpumalanga Government to accredit us to build for our people independently as a municipality. These will help to speed up the pace with which we address the housing back log. MMC Nkadimeng we are confident that the presentation you and your team tabled to your provincial counter parts will yield positive results.

While still on issues of human settlement the people of **New town/Avalon** as it is popularly known cannot continue to stay under such inhuman conditions, we believe that all the initiative mentioned above will bring a solution to your plight.

The Council will act as implementing agent for the settlement of restituted communities at Botshabelo and Somaphepha.

NDR

As an ANC led Municipality we continue to pursue the goals of National Democratic Revolution, core amongst many is the creation a Democratic Non Racial Non Sexist and

Prosperous South Africa. Our Spatial planning as expressed in the Spatial Development Framework will support the integration of our communities and address all forms of racial discrimination, *in pursuit of a "classless society" as envisaged by The Late Great Pieter Tosh through his countless revolutionary songs such as "Oh Bambo klaat", "fools Die" and "Recruiting Solders" to name but only three.*

Imagine how good it can be to parade STLM as a building block for a classless society. Our experts in this regard have identified land in town to be developed for the middle income earners, those who earn too little to afford a bond but too much to qualify for an RDP house, Kwazamokuhle ext8 is almost ready to be developed and it links the township and town.

We will continue with the transformation process until our environment and the administration fully reflects our current demography. An additional fire station is envisaged for Mhluzi in the near future, while satellite stations are proposed for Kranspoort and industrial area in Middelburg.

We will continue to control and assist informal traders where ever they operate.

Almost all I have referred to in this speech has a positive impact in the creation of job opportunities and the growing of our local economy.

As I conclude let me acknowledge our young ambassadors at various fields ***Charles Phasha playing a character speedy in SABC 1 zone 14, Tsholoflo Maseko who is presenting Seskona program on SABC 1 and Happy Jele a player for Orlando Pirate also deployed to win tonight's game against Keizer Chiefs I believe he will carry that with diligent***

Allow me to conclude by quoting South Africa's first Democratic President Nelson Mandela as he said ***"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate but we are powerful beyond measure"***.

The next five years will be so interesting don't make a mistake live carefully and stay alive you will see, as we take Steve Tshwete to even higher levels. As President Mbeki once declared an Age of hope I am declaring a ***term of hope.***

NGIYABONGA!

KEA LBOGA!

ENKOSI!

NGIYA THOKOZA!

BAIE DANKIE!

I THANK YOU!

