

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF KWADUKUZA MUNICIPALITY, COUNCILLOR RICARDO MTHEMBU, KWADUKUZA TOWN HALL.

17 AUGUST 2016

Madame Speaker of the Municipal Council, Councillor Phumlile Zulu;

MEC District OSS Champion, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwane;

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dolly Govender;

Municipal Manager, Mr Nhlanhla Mdakane;

Fellow Councillors;

Traditional leaders;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all Ward Councillors for the confidence that the electorate has shown in you by assigning you the responsibility to lead them. Let me also congratulate all the PR Councillors for the confidence that your political parties have demonstrated by entrusting you with the task to represent them on the Municipal Council of KwaDukuza. I trust that all of us will not disappoint the aspirations of the people who have sent us to represent their interests in the Municipal Council.

At the outset I wish to thank my organisation, the African National Congress, my comrades and Councillors for electing me to lead one of the country's fastest growing municipalities. It is a task I accept with a sense of honour and humility. I accept this mandate in the knowledge that the abiding sense of responsibility that rests in all the Councillors is a guarantor for the support I will receive from all these public representatives who are gathered here today and have taken an Oath of Office, committing all of us to do everything in our power to advance the interests of the people of KwaDukuza.

Similarly, I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madame Speaker, Councillor Phumlile Zulu for your election to preside over the affairs of the Council of KwaDukuza Municipality. Let me also thank the MEC and Municipal Manager for presiding over this sitting at the commencement of our programme.

The Independent Electoral Commission has, once again, ensured the integrity of the country's electoral democracy by delivering free and fair elections. The declaration by Election

Observers of the electoral process as free and fair strengthens and deepens democracy in our society. In that regard, I take this opportunity to salute the staff and management of the IEC for a sterling job.

Our Municipality has, over many years, achieved unqualified Audit Opinions, declared a financially stable municipality, and declared one of the best-performing municipalities. We owe these accolades to the stewardship to the colleagues who served on Council during the last terms of office. As I assume this high Office, it is with gratitude that I recognise their commitment to the well-being of the people of KwaDukuza. On that note, I wish those colleagues who did not come back to serve on Council well in their future plans.

Madame Speaker and fellow Councillors;

The people have spoken! They have made the unequivocal statement that they have confidence in the African National Congress and have therefore given it a renewed mandate to lead them in the next five years.

A nation that allows its history and heritage to be distorted faces the risk that its younger generations may not know the truth about their past and, therefore, take it for granted that the conditions in which they grow and live have always been in existence. The imminent danger is that these generations will actively participate in the erosion of the role that was played by their heroes and heroines as they sought to create the conditions that they now assume have always existed. In so doing these younger generations will be rewriting history in a perverted manner that favours the former oppressors. We have seen these by some of the parties who find it difficult to claim their stalwarts because of the history they are not proud of and have this new found love for icons of the liberation struggle such as Tata Madiba.

We convene this Inaugural Meeting of Council at a time when we celebrate important anniversaries in the history of our country. We celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the 1956 Women's March, 55 years of the formation of uMkhonto weSizwe, 40th Anniversary of the 1976 Student Uprising, 20 years of the adoption of the democratic Constitution and 16 years of democratic local government, among other milestones. These are the milestones and events that reflect the indomitable spirit of the masses of the people of South Africa. It is a history and heritage we must hold so dear and never allow it to be distorted and rendered insignificant by forces that seek to instil a sense of self denial.

The continued distortion our history and heritage serves as a constant reminder that the forces of colonial domination have not given up on their efforts to control every aspect of our lives. Instead they have come back in a different guise, to the point of renting blacks who are willing to sell their souls in pursuit of an agenda that perpetuates unequal economic relations. It is the agenda of the former oppressors to keep the African majority in particular, and blacks in general, at the bottom of the ladder in terms of economic opportunities. To give their system a human face they have resorted to renting a black crowd to make it look legitimate.

In our Election Manifesto, we make the bold statement to say:

“Before 1994, there was a fragmented system comprising over a thousand local authorities for white people, Africans in urban areas, African communities in homelands, and Indian and coloured communities. The arrangement was designed to systematically divide the people. Over the years ANC government has fundamentally changed this by establishing a coherent, functional and stable structure and system of local governance. Unlike the apartheid system of local governance, our democratic system of local governance seeks to unite people and build better communities.”

Because we have always understood the importance of working together with the people our Manifesto goes further to say:

“Together with communities, the ANC will:

- Build on achievements made in delivering basic services to the people.*
- Improve access to municipal services and reduce outsourcing in municipalities.*
- Further improve public participation and accountability of councillors.*
- Enhance the capacity of the local state to deliver on its mandate.*
- Develop and strengthen local economies, create jobs and promote job placements, especially for the youth.*
- Intensify the fight against fraud and corruption in local government and social fabric crimes in communities.*
- Promote education as the apex priority in local communities.*
- Improve health in urban and rural communities.*
- Help municipalities adapt to the changing climatic conditions.*
- Build spatially integrated communities.*
- Promote nation-building and socially cohesive communities.”*

As Mayor of KwaDukuza I commit to the following programme to be implemented in the next 100 days:

In celebrating 16 years of local government and in line with the Election Manifesto which calls upon us to build spatially integrated communities, we will ensure that we approve, for the first time, Wall-to-Wall Land Use Management Scheme, known as the **KwaDukuza Land Use Management Scheme (LUMS)**.

We will finalise plans and enter into a strategic partnership with **Hullets Development**, which will allow us as a partners to unlock various investments within our area of jurisdiction. We will further extend the access to free Wi-Fi and internet in our libraries by appointing a Cybecadet Officer for Stanger Manor Library.

With regards to our Human Settlements mandate I will intervene and ensure that Aldenville Housing Project contractor is back on site and houses are being built. We will also be breaking new ground and start building of houses at Steve Biko Area, in ward 13. The contractor is currently establishing on site and ready to go. I will ensure that the beneficiary registration preparations for both Sihle Phakathi and Charllotdale Housing Project are done and started before end of October 2016.

To deal with a long-standing issue we will ensure that we formally start with the process of expropriating land in Ballito for the building of the Taxi Rank. Notices will be served to the affected property owner within the next 30 days.

We will formally meet with the new MEC for Arts and Culture, to discuss the reconstruction of the new KwaDukuza Museum, extension of the KwaDukuza Main Library and building of a library at Groutville to serve this rapidly urbanising corridor.

We will ensure that the first 100 recruits to the Chief Albert Luthuli Skills Development Centre are recruited and start their training before end of the year.

We will also develop and finalise our local employment policy statement which will be used to facilitate the employment of local people in all economic sectors in order to fight poverty, crime, unemployment and underdevelopment.

Continuing on the work that started during the last term, KwaDukuza Municipality, in partnership with the Departments of Public Works Health will in the next 18 months begin the construction of the new Groutville Clinic. The building plans have been approved and the project has been approved by the Department of Health.

We will ensure that the Department of Human Settlements provide full budget for the construction of houses at Etete, Driefontein, Ntshawini, Chris Hani, Lloyd and Sihle Phakathi. We will be launching of the new King Shaka Mixed Use Development in the Golf Course Area. This project will shape and change the future of KwaDukuza CBD and contribute to the urban renewal of the area.

We will be launching the Electronic Document Management system for the building control and development planning. This will be done before end of June 2017.

We will establish and launch our Anti-Corruption Toll-Free number and promote our Anti-corruption and Fraud policy. The launch of this toll-free will be done before end of March 2017.

We will work toward reviving and strengthening of our interaction with all key actors from various economic sectors. We will work with the organised business to establish Mayoral Business Forum and also launch the KwaDukuza Community Tourism Association.

We will continue to support various events and programmes that are aimed at promoting our area as the tourism destination of choice and also those who provide entertainment to the

visitors. These events include Umkhosi weLembe, Pro Ballito , KwaDukuza Music Festival and Chief Albert Luthuli Commemorative Walk.

We will revamp and restructure our learnership and internship programme to ensure that we are able to reach at least 100 youth per year. We are also expecting the private sector to partner with us to provide placement to these learners and interns.

We will focus on building capacity of our SMMEs and ensure that we use our procurement to stimulate entrepreneurship. We have amended our policy to ensure that local businesses benefit provided they meet all the requirements.

During this term we would like to see these strategic economic infrastructure projects being implemented:

- Construction of KwaDukuza Intermodal Facility and related private sector driven component,
- Construction of King Shaka Mall at the unused KwaDukuza Golf Course Site,
- Finalise the delivery method for the new Civic Centre and construction thereof,
- Continue to support the extension of Ballito Junction and ensure that it opens on time next year in March,
- Unlock mixed use development in Compensation,
- Unlock and support further development of Woodmead Mixed-use Precinct by attracting industry and building of the mall.

In compliance with the Manifesto and continuing of the work we have done in the previous term, we will launch the KDM Service Standards Charter through which residents, ratepayers and public shall be placed at the centre of receiving the required services as per the acceptable standards. This Charter will also set out the procedure to be followed by members of the public in registering or reporting their complaints for services not received as per agreed standards of the Municipality. This programme shall be launched as part of maximizing both management and councillor performance and accountability to the electorate.

As part of celebrating 20 years of the RSA democratic constitution, KDM shall continue restoring the human dignity of the vulnerable sectors of the communities by transferring and handing over a minimum of 60 title deeds to deserving beneficiaries of the EEDBS programme.

The Councillor Skills Audit and Competency Development Plan would be developed showing the current level of education, skills and competencies of all councillors of KwaDukuza including Amakhosi. Based on that information the Councillor Skills Audit and Competency Development Plan will then show the education, competencies and skills required by each KDM councillor and inkosi. This Plan would ensure that the leadership capacity of councillors is enhanced and thereby ensuring effective political oversight.

A comprehensive programme shall be developed to ensure that KDM bona fide graduates who are not in any employ are mainstreamed in the broader KDM service delivery agenda. This is a response to the meetings I had as the Mayor elect with KDM and regional graduates who are not in any employ and through this programme to be developed in the next 100 days, we want to bring on board the private sector as well to address the plight of graduates not exposed to workplace or business environment.

KDM working together with organised labour shall as part of BUILDING A DISCIPLINED, PEOPLE-CENTRED AND PROFESSIONAL LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE launch and sign the liveable pledge called KDM BACK TO BASICS CHARTER through which KDM staff members and organised labour shall be committing themselves to workplace ethical conduct to display in the performance of their duties.

KDM shall, working together with organised labour, develop and cost a plan on the introduction of flexible shifts and systems to promote greater access to municipal services by members of the public. This plan will ensure that the electorate or members of public are not limited to 8 hours per day to access municipal services. Furthermore this plan will also ensure that members of public do not travel long distances to access municipal services.

KDM shall in the next 100 days provide infrastructural capacity for communities and members of public to access councillors 24 hours and this will also include the systems for councillors to deepen their accountability to wards and communities they lead.

This new Council needs to take a different and radical approach in terms of holding management accountable for decisions of Council taken. It is for this reason that in the next 100 days as councillors we expect all council decisions taken to be implemented within 14 days of circulation to all KDM management. Furthermore the comprehensive report on the implementation of Council decisions (register of council decisions) will in the next 100 days be expected to be presented before Council quarterly so that Council is able to play political oversight over the implementation of its decisions.

Job creation and local economic development constituted the manifesto messages of all parties in general which contested the 2016 Local Government Elections. The challenge that faces KDM and its area is that there is a lack of a strategy and structure to coordinate skills requirements as per the local economy of KwaDukuza, district and the province. It is against this backdrop that in the next 100 days a clear framework strategy will be developed on KwaDukuza Local Skills Revolution.

As you would know, our financial year commences on the 1st July. We have spent most of the allocation for our capital expenditure in relation to infrastructure projects. With regards to infrastructure development, we will implement the following key projects in the next 100 days:

- In ward 1 the Sokesimbone Road and Storm Water project to the value of R12,2 million will be completed.

- In ward 10 we will complete and hand over to the community the Prof. Dube Road to the value of R3,5 million. We will also complete the Charlottedale to Dube Village Road valued at R16, 2 million.
- In ward 3 we will complete and hand over the Nonoti Main Road Phase 2 to the value of R16,5 million. We will also complete and hand over the Nonoti Sports field to the value of R6,3 million and Nonoti Crèche to the value of R4,7 million,
- In ward 22 we will complete the Colwyn Drive and Storm Water to the value of R5, 9 million and the Merchant Crescent and Storm Water to the value of R2,4 million.
- In ward 25 we will complete and hand over the Hlalankosi Road and Storm Water to the value of R12,2 million. Mdlebeni Road and Storm Water valued at R4,7 million and Shekembula Road and Storm Water to the value of R12, 2 million.
- In ward 26 we will complete and handover Ediphini Access Road valued at R8,3 million, Ebhubha Access Road valued at R6,8 million and Steve Biko Bus Route valued at R9,2 million.
- In ward 9 the Malende Phase 2 will be completed and is valued at R2,1 million.
- In Ward 18 we will complete the Mbozamo Community Hall to the value of R4,2 million.
- In ward 27 the Mkhambeni to Mabhodweni Bus Route to the value of R15,8 million and the Madakeni Access Road valued at R6,1 million will be completed.
- In ward 23 we will complete and hand over to the community the Shayamoya Sports Complex to the value of R12,3 million.

Madame Speaker and fellow Councillors;

Impela yinde lendlela esiyihambayo. Siyaqhuba impela in advancing people's power in every community. We are also making sure that local government is in the hands of the people.

We have our work cut out. When we go back to our workstations we cannot be confused about what has been achieved and what needs to be done. We will continue to work with our communities to build a better life for all.

Thank you.