

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF POLOKWANE – CLLR THEMBISILE SIMELANE- NKADIMENG ON 10 JULY 2014, POLOKWANE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Good afternoon!

I take to the podium to accept the responsibility that Council has bestowed upon me to be the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality from today until the end of this term of Council.

Honourable Speaker, the responsibility Council has bestowed upon me is onerous task that depends largely on how well we as a collective manage the mandate the community has given us in making their lives better. Various political organizations represented in this Council here – That we are different, the bottom line remains that we owe it to the communities to ensure that we accelerate provision of water to cover the remaining percentage that hasn't reached the RDP level of provision. Equally, the challenge of sanitation cannot be overemphasized as the backlog is far greater than in other basic services. The same vigour that the municipality has had in the past 20 years in electricity provision should continue unabated, a few of our rural areas (less than 15%) have not reached the RDP level of electricity target is reached. This is a target that is within our reach as we make inroads into making Polokwane a smart city.

Honourable Speaker, I have been reliably briefed that some of our major challenges have been in areas of billing and to some extent in the recent years, waste management. We need to start and ensure that started some work on improving the customer care element as well as looking at option like smart metering that would bring great relief and revenue.

I expect greater cooperation from Councillors, both from the ruling party and the opposition party in my role my next eighteen months years. My role would be to liaise with all parties involved in Council to canvass major decisions and share with them major decisions that the Mayoral Committee would have taken. The Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) would be another instrument that this Council would

effectively use to gauge and monitor the performance of the municipality, especially the part that deals with making sure that the way we administer our resources is free of corruption and ineptness, that Council resources are placed at best use.

Honourable Speaker, one of the greatest joy I derive from my term of office is to leave here with the municipality having achieved clean audit. This has eluded the municipality for the past years, yet it is achievable. I would spend time with the administration looking at ways to get around failure to get clean audit. If there are any additional resources to be deployed around this area we shall to hesitate to do that. Clean governance equals better services.

I join the municipality at the time at which Council has already adopted the Integrated Development Plan and budget, instruments which will help steer us towards our goals. During the recent **State of the City Address**, the municipality announced its adoption of the **2030 Smart City Vision** as a way of fast tracking service delivery to the community. Consistent with the 2030 Smart City Vision, the city launched six **pillars** that will assist the municipality to work towards the realization of becoming a Smart City – this will be the city that is characterized by a **Smart Economy, Smart Environment, Smart Governance, Smart Living, Smart Mobility and Smart People**. This Smart City concept is carried within the city's vision to be the *"The ultimate in innovation and sustainable development"*.

This vision goes on further to look into:

- Economic development especially our township economy
- Human & community development- issues that promote transformation and social cohesion
- Housing, infrastructure and basic services
- Environmental observation and management
- Spatial transformation
- Transportation

- Health
- Safety
- Financial sustainability
- Governance & Corporate services

The city has already started with the implementation of the Smart City concept within the pillar of **Smart Mobility**. It is intended to assist the municipality to provide adequate transport infrastructure, increase utilization of public transport services and to improve the image and acceptability of the public transport across various income groups/classes. The municipality will continuously implement the Smart City Concept in the other service delivery fields in the coming financial years by converting to Smart Metering, E-Governance, Comprehensive Electronic Billing System and Rural Broadband Services.

I take this opportunity to invite all of you to join the city in its vision and to pledge your commitment to improve our city and beyond its municipal jurisdiction. For we cannot live as an island

I would also like to take this **opportunity to thank the party which sent me, the ever victorious African National Congress for conferring on me such an honour**, trust and privilege to provide political and strategic leadership to the heart beat of Limpopo Province, the City of Polokwane. I stand here without a shadow of doubt that my deployment to this city is based on the trust that I will not compromise on the resounding mandate given to **me** by the people on the promise to deliver services and to build opportunities for the city's future.

Honourable Speaker may I also take this opportunity to **thank my predecessor, Cde Freddy Greaver, for developing a solid foundation** to steer this City of Stars on the path to success. Cde Greaver's tenure was characterized by unifying the people, community engagement, integrity, fighting maladministration, dedication and hard work. These are the pillars upon which, we shall build on strategies to propel this municipality forward.

I thank the business sector, the media, our traditional leaders and all stakeholders for being here and I am looking forward to a positive working relationship with all of you. Help us improve, keep us on our toes. Let us all take part in building our beautiful city.

Let me also take this opportunity to announce men and women who will be assisting me as part of the Mayoral Committee (MMC):

- Cllr Charles Molepo-Finance and Local Economic Development
- Cllr Edgar Maleka-Water and Sanitation
- Cllr Sinah Tjale-Roads and Storm Water
- Cllr Jerry Sello-Land Use Management, Spatial Planning and Development
- Cllr Steve Mashabela-Energy
- Cllr Lois Hardy-Administration and Governance
- Cllr Johanna Kaka-Culture, Sports, Recreation and Special Focus
- Cllr Edward Nkadimeng-Community Safety

The two MMCs for Waste and Environment and Housing will be announced at a later stage.

Since this is my first day allow me to get into the municipality to observe, work and bring the desired results to our people.

Thank You.