



## **SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR THEMBISILE NKADIMENG- COUNCIL MEETING ON 29 JANUARY 2015 IN THE NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Honourable Speaker,

We are on course!

Steadily the dark clouds of despair are lifting, giving way to our season of hope. The continuing process of social and national emancipation, to which all of us in this house are subject to, constitutes an evolving act of self-definition. In the words of the late President of the country, Nelson Mandela, “At the dawn of a new life, our actions must ensure that none can challenge us when we say-we are a nation at work to build a better life”.

To our people, who we owe the obligation; again, I recommit myself and the municipality on whose behalf I speak, to the construction of a better society. I am happy to do this with all the authority at my command.

What will guide us in everything we do in 2015 will be a pair of the “magnifying glass” to guarantee the dignity of everyone through proper sanitation, provision of clean drinking water, electrification of all our extensions and creation of accessible roads. We do this in order to eliminate once and for all the once catastrophic loss of identity, human dignity, land dispossession, classification and denigration as sub-humans. We seek to wear magnifying glasses to see all these so we can replace a society which has been and continue to be brutal and brutish to the extreme.

In 2015, as a municipality we commit ourselves to work in close partnership with Magoshi, CBOs, NGOs and all stakeholders, inspired by the call of *'Faranani'*. This to ensure that we draw on the energy and genius of all of us to give birth to something that will be new, good and beautiful.

If by word and deed, we take our place among the ordinary people who position themselves among a nation that is at work to build a better life for all in a caring society, then we should expect that the poor of the world will set a garland of grace on our heads and present each and everyone of us with a crown of splendour. Thus we all arrive at the starting-that we are on course. I urge all in Council to pick up your magnifying glasses to view 2015 different for the benefit of our people.



In pursuit of Charles Dickens'- Great Expectations, a story based on growth and personal development of an orphan-Pip. Indeed, personal development is a personal responsibility.

Smart people are led by smart leaders. In pursuit of excellence, I will burn the midnight oil towards my Masters Degree in Community and Development studies.

It gives me pleasure to announce additional members of the **Mayoral Committee**. **Cllr Mariri Ralefatane** will take responsibility for **Housing portfolio** whilst **Cllr Jennifer Malope** will be responsible for **Waste and Environment**. Further that **Cllr Alfred Moakamedi** will now chair **Council's Ethics Committee**.

**Tale of two Cities (1859)** It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolish, it was the epoch of belief, the epoch of incredibility, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was winter of despair. We had everything before us, we were all going to heaven; we were all going direct the other way.

In short, the period was so far like the present period. Therefore ours is to make correct interpretation, strategy, tactics and implement. It needs us to live true to **Franz Fanon** who says, "Each generation must out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it or betray it". My choice is clear; I will fulfil the aspiration of the **National Development Plan**. I will urge all of you to choose the same.

We are on course!

I feel good, renewed by the deliberation of African National Congress NEC Lekgotla held in the past three days. I am already experiencing change informed by the plans we are rolling out with the departments of **Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation, Development Bank of Southern Africa and the National Treasury**.

Happy new year to all of you, welcome to 2015, the year of "*magnifying glass*". A year for all of us to see beauty inside out.