



## PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR  
Cllr. MT Kibi  
(2016-2021)

24 AUGUST 2016

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Honorable Speaker,

Honorable Councilors,

Honorable Mayors of all local municipalities in the district,

Honorable Mrs. Hazel Jenkins, former Executive Mayor of  
Pixley ka Seme District Municipality,

Honorable Councilor Zenzile Lolwana, former Executive  
Mayor of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, in absentia.

Honorable Magistrate,

Municipal Manager and the Senior Management of Pixey ka  
Seme District Municipality,

District Managers and representatives of all sector  
departments in the district,

Staff of the Independent Electoral Commission of South  
Africa,

All distinguished guests, family and friends.

Honorable Speaker, I am having the rare honor of  
welcoming the two former Executive Mayors of Pixley ka

Seme District Municipality, it is indeed a humbling experience to have the first female executive mayor of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality as an invitee to the inaugural council meeting of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, for the 2016-2021 municipal-term. She assisted in shaping my and our collective understanding of local government, it was under her leadership that we really started to comprehend the complex nature of governance at municipal level.

Honorable Speaker and Councilors, I had the honor of serving in the Mayoral Committee under Executive Mayor Hazel Jenkins, whilst I was elected to serve as the Speaker of the Municipal Council under the leadership of Executive Mayor Councilor Zenzile Lolwana.

Honorable Speaker, it is important that all of us acknowledge the roles played by all our former leaders and councilors, in particular those who paved the way for us, the current crop of leaders and councilors. Both Mrs. Jenkins and councilor Lolwana played an important role in shaping Pixley ka Seme District Municipality into the institution it is today. The history of this institution will and must reflect their selfless and exemplary contribution in ensuring that this institution is respected and acknowledged by its peers in the province and nationally.

Honorable Speaker, the two former Executive Mayors served as torchbearers and pioneers, as well as examples of public office bearers who contributed selflessly to the improvement of the lives of the people of Pixley ka Seme District. They represent that crop of public office bearers in our country, province and district who were not afraid to face community challenges head-on, and to provide leadership and guidance under the most difficult of circumstances. Their conduct was always worthy to follow, their advice and wisdom always appreciated, their foresight

and experience always served as a point of reference to all of us who were led by them.

Mrs. Jenkins please accept our deepest appreciation for having accepted our invitation to the inaugural council meeting of the institution that was once led by you. We thought it to be proper to have you with us today, for you to personally experience and witness the fruits of your hard labour. You taught us certain lessons, and we will try on a daily basis to always remember your teachings and example. Thank you once again for being here with us today. Cllr Lolwana could unfortunately not make it to be with us today, he submitted an apology.

Honorable Speaker, allow me to extend a word of welcome to all of you today, it is indeed an historic day for Pixley ka Seme District Municipality and the district as a whole, as the two most senior political positions of this municipal council are occupied by two females. It is indeed a good cause for celebration, if one takes into account the struggles for women emancipation in South Africa and globally.

Honorable Speaker, as we are commemorating the heroic struggles of the brave women of 1956, when they faced the apartheid government of the time, they declared in unison that South Africa will be free from all kinds of oppression, including the triple oppression of women. Women were oppressed because of their gender, they were oppressed because of their class, as well as their race. Women suffered the most under apartheid, but the brave women who led and participated in the historic march to the Union Buildings in 1956 demonstrated their collective strength and focus, in bringing about democracy and freedom in South Africa. Women are no more seen as second-class citizens in this country, but they enjoy full and equal rights with their male counter-parts. That is why as females we are humbled today by the responsibility bestowed upon us by the Municipal

Council of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, to lead your institution.

Speaker, this year on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic march of the heroic and brave women of 1956, we can proudly say.. 'Malibongwe igama lamakosikazi malibongwe'. We are indeed descendants of those brave and God-fearing women who rose up and did not fear imprisonment and death, those women laid the foundation for all us, male and female.

Speaker, let me remind the council of the prophetic words uttered by one of Africa's finest leaders, the late Thomas Sankara, the late freedom fighter of the Burkina Faso revolution and president of Burkina Faso, between 1983-1987.

He said the following words when he addressed the issue of female emancipation in Burkina Faso: 'By changing the social order that oppresses women, the revolution creates the conditions for their genuine emancipation. We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or out of a surge of human compassion. It is a basic necessity for the revolution to triumph. The genuine emancipation of women is one that entrusts responsibilities to women, that involves them in productive activity and in the different fights the people face. The genuine emancipation of women is one that compels men to give them respect and consideration. Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted, it is conquered.'

Honorable Speaker, I also stumbled upon an interesting piece of history whilst reading a book titled 'The Founders', written by Andre Odendaal. The subtitle of this book is 'The origins of the ANC and the struggle for democracy in South Africa. A part of the book deals with the role of women in the struggle. It states, 'Charlotte Maxeke (born Manye) stands out as the notable woman in the roll-call of ANC pioneers

until the mass struggles of the 1950's, which saw the formation of the Federation of South African Women in 1954, the historic march to the Union Buildings in 1956, and popular protests by women in Cato manor and elsewhere.'

Speaker, the lesson from this piece that I quoted informs us that despite the patriarchal and oppressive system of the time, brave women like Charlotte Maxeke played an active role, she was one of the early trendsetters in the fight for the emancipation of females and women.

Honorable Speaker, the same book also documented examples of the active role played by women, it states, 'One sign of political consciousness was the correspondence entered into by women with African newspapers. In 1884, an unnamed 'lady reader' from Somerset East wrote to *Isigidimi*, criticizing men who said women should not be involved in public life. She said...this is an old mistake, to believe that there are some matters which the ladies cannot listen to...nothing becomes strong without them...getting *amaledi* involved could only strengthen an organization', she declared.

Speaker, our collective history as South Africans is rich with examples of females and women who took up leadership positions, despite the resistance by men in the community....it was therefore the proper thing to do today, to elect *amaledi* to the two most senior political positions of this municipal council, because *amaledi* will only serve to strengthen the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality.

Honorable Speaker, I cannot fail to remind councilors that the election and appointment of females to senior positions in the public service is a key policy position of the ruling party, the African National Congress. The ANC saw it fit and proper to ensure that females are deliberately afforded an opportunity to lead society and its structures. It is the

historical responsibility of the national liberation movement, the ANC, to ensure that women and females are freed from the bondage of the triple oppression they suffered previously. Therefore, it is not a favor made to women when they are elected to lead, it is the only manner in which the country will ensure that women are affirmed, and past discrimination and oppression is dealt with.

Honorable Speaker, we are all reminded of our responsibility as public representatives, as dictated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, which states amongst others in its preamble....'We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to....Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person, and build a united and democratic South Africa, able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.'

Honorable Speaker, the abovementioned quotation out of the RSA Constitution of 1996 is very important, as it must serve as our guiding principle for the entire term until 2021...we must never forget that we have been entrusted to ensure that we improve the quality of life of all the people in the Pixley ka Seme District, with a particular bias towards the poor, the unemployed and the socially marginalized section of our community, women and children. We have not been elected to act in a self-serving manner, or to take decisions that will favor our families and friends.

Honorable Councilors, our Constitutional mandate is further explained in Chapter 7 Section 152 and Section 153. We therefore do not have an option as to what we need to, the supreme law of the land is clear, we must serve our people and ensure that they enjoy municipal-services in a sustainable manner.

Honorable Speaker, we are just from the last round of local government elections in South Africa. In fact, we are the direct off-springs of these elections. The people of Pixley ka Seme district declared their preferences in very clear terms. We must be humbled to have been entrusted with the confidence of the electorate. We must not for one moment take the trust and confidence of the people for granted, and become arrogant towards their plight and challenges. We must remain rooted amongst the poor and unemployed, giving hope to the hopeless on a daily basis, but more importantly to always act in their interest. The people of the district must experience this team of councilors as councilors who are single-minded in the focus, our focus must only be to improve the quality of the people. When people raise their challenges with us, they must be assured that we will immediately pay attention to it, and report back to them. We must be an activist council, a council that is led by the challenges of the people, a council that is always in contact with all sectors of society, we must be a council that provides leadership to society. We cannot be a municipal council that is only interested in convening council meetings, being inward looking, and only remembering the people during the commemoration of historic public holidays. Our programme must be informed by the plight of the people.

Honorable Speaker, we must also acknowledge the work done by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa. The IEC improved on its operations since 1994, it always delivered on its mandate of ensuring free and fair elections that are credible. The work done by the IEC is definitely a good story to tell for South Africa, it is a good advertisement for the maturity of our Chapter 9 institutions, and is an indication on how far our constitutional-democracy has matured. Looking elsewhere on the continent and the globe, we are definitely in good hands, our election-processes are always open and transparent. Thank you IEC-staff for serving your country and keeping our

democracy working. As political parties, we might not always agree with your PR-calculations, but you are doing a good job.

Honorable Speaker, our first assignment as this newly constituted municipal council will be to convene a strategic planning session. A session that must be utilized to both assess the current state of the municipality in its totality, we need to be as thorough as a medical practitioner that assesses his patient, nothing must escape our assessment. The Municipal Manager and the senior managers must ensure that their presentations at the said strategic planning session affords us an opportunity to make a proper value judgment on the state of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. Secondly, the same strategic planning session must also serve to plan the way forward for the institution. All of us will and must be afforded an opportunity to qualitatively contribute towards the developmental agenda of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality for the next 5 years.

Honorable Speaker, our envisaged strategic planning exercise must be informed by the development demands as set out in the National Development Plan, the blue-print for socio-economic development in South Africa until 2030. We cannot plan on our own as an institution, whilst the development plans of the other spheres of government are in line with the NDP. The strategic planning session must therefore also enjoy a presentation on the National Development Plan.

Honorable Speaker, we must also enhance our institutional relationship with the sector-departments that have a presence in the district. As government in the district we must endeavor to streamline our programmes. That will ensure that the people of the district see and experience a united government, a government with one mandate, a government with one common message. The Office of the



Executive Mayor must immediately convene a meeting with all sector-departments in the district, to realize our dream of a government with a common and united voice on how to improve the quality of life of the people of the district.

Honorable Speaker, we must also likewise foster closer ties with the Offices of all Mayors in the district, through our intergovernmental relations programme and framework. We need to ensure that all municipalities have a standard programme of community engagement and mobilization. Part of our Constitutional mandate is also to 'provide democratic and accountable government to local communities'. The Offices of Mayors must be central in the provision of democratic and accountable government to the people, we cannot neglect this responsibility. Offices of Mayors must become a point of reference in all communities, where relevant community and government information will be readily available on a daily basis. The Office of the Executive Mayor, in collaboration with the Office of the Premier, will also provide leadership in this regard.

Honorable Speaker, we have been individually elected by the people on the mandates of our different political parties. However, this council meeting brought us together as a team, we have been sworn in as councilors of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. We are now a team, each one of us is now a member of Team Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, we are now a united force for improved service delivery in the district. We must all subscribe to the notion of collective leadership, meaning we win together or we lose together. Our party-political differences and policy positions must not serve to weaken this team, we must always act in the best interest of the people of Pixley ka Seme District.

Speaker, in this regard, councilor Grobbelaar set a very good example during the last term of council, 2011-2016. He served as the chairperson of MPAC, and was also an invitee

to the meetings of the Audit Committee, he always accompanied the Executive Mayor to engagements with the Northern Cape Legislature, SALGA and the Auditor General, whilst not being from the same political party as the former Executive Mayor. Councilor Grobbelaar demonstrated his commitment and service to this institution. His party political membership and affiliation did not prevent him from serving as a councilor to Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. Let us all follow his example during our term as councilors at Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, let us be focused on our mandate as servants of the people.

Speaker, we must always ensure that we never fail in our oversight responsibility on the administrative duties of the Municipal Manager, senior managers and the staff, during our council committee engagements. It is during the council committee meetings that we must interrogate the reports presented by the senior managers and middle managers, however that will also require that as chairpersons and members of those council committees, councilors must read and be vigilant. Our failure to read and to be vigilant will weaken the collective role of the municipal council, and allow for the institutional plans not be realized.

Honorable Speaker, we must be prepared to face the following challenges collectively during this term as councilors of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality:

- The high prevalence of alcohol-abuse in the district, especially by pregnant females, which result in an increase in foetal alcohol syndrome.
- The equally high prevalence of the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty in the district.
- The low levels of education and technical skills in the district.
- The slow improvement by some local municipalities on their annual Auditor General outcomes.

- The increased prevalence of communicable diseases in the district, e.g. TB, HIV\AIDS, etc.
- The failure of some of our local municipalities to spend on their MIG-funds, which impacts negatively on local service delivery.
- The funding formula utilized by national and provincial government, to allocate grant-funding to local government.
- The high outstanding Eskom accounts by local municipalities.
- The high auditing-fees charged by the Auditor General.
- The ageing social infrastructure at local municipal-level in the district.
- The weak economic climate nationally and globally, which will need innovation from all of us.
- The slow pace of housing delivery in the district.

Honorable Speaker and Councilors, we will have to urgently meet with all our stakeholders, to agree on an immediate way forward on how to address the abovementioned challenges, and others not mentioned here today. As local government, it will be impossible for us to address these matters on our own. We will have to partner with the relevant sector departments, NGO's and private sector role players to agree on a sustainable programme of action.

Honorable Speaker and Councilors, it is now my honor to announce the Members of the Mayoral Committee today. This is informed by The Municipal Structures Act, section (60)(1)(a). The 3 members of the Mayoral Committee are as follows: Councilor Rhodi Ithumeleng, who will be responsible for Corporate Services, councilor Lulamile Nkumbi who will be responsible for the Finance portfolio and councilor Thandi Sintu, who will be responsible for Technical Services, Development and Housing. I will immediately meet with the Members of the Mayoral

Committee to inform them of their new responsibilities and what my expectations are of them.

Speaker, let all of us approach this 4<sup>th</sup> administration of democratic local government in South Africa with a high degree of open-mindedness, and as a team let us ensure that we do really improve the quality of lives of the people of the Pixley ka Seme District.

Thank you, enkosi, dankie, kealeboga.....!!!!