



**CLLR ANDREW MAPHETLE – EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
POTCHEFSTROOM
WELCOME SPEECH – INUGURATION
NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY
POTCHEFSTROOM BANQUETING HALLS
17H30**

Honourable Edna Molewa – Premier of the North West Province;

Honourable Thandi Modise – Speaker of the Provincial Legislature;

Members of the Provincial Legislature present here;

Her Worship Pinky Moloi – Executive Mayor of the Southern District Municipality;

ANC Southern Regional Executive Members;

Colleague Executive Mayors and Mayors present here today;

Speakers;

Councilors;

DG's, DDG's present here;

Chairpersons and Secretaries present;

Distinguished guests;

Comrades and Compatriots;

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the City of Potchefstroom. We are really humbled and honoured to be a host to this auspicious occasion.

Programme Director – South Africa's economic and social policies flow from the democratic values and respect for human dignity enshrined in the Constitution. Government seeks to ensure that social and economic rights are progressively realized, that the legacy of historical injustice is redressed, and that future generations will enjoy the fruits of broad-based development and robust economic growth – and I believe that the implementation of most of these initiatives, lies squarely on local government.

As the sphere of government closer to the people, we as the leaders in local government must ensure that we give greater impetus to social development and continuing the strong focus on reducing poverty and extending basic services to all our people. We know that as strong as they are – South Africans are looking forward to all the positive initiatives by the government.

We must never deviate from our strategic goals of achieving accelerated and shared economic growth and development to address the challenge of poverty and underdevelopment. We must also strengthen the system of local government and ensure that our movement works in a manner that is inspired by the view of our people.

Councilor Moloi – you have been tasked to lead this region into the new tenure of development in local government. We have, as individual municipalities, succeeded in implementing various projects – and I believe that together, and with all the information shared, we will take this region to greater heights.

On Wednesday 19 April, death robbed our country and people of a towering woman leader and patriot, Ma Ellen Motlalepule Khuzwayo. Born in 1914, she passed away a mere two months away from celebrating her 92nd birthday. We take this opportunity once more to convey our condolences to the family of the late Ma Khuzwayo, with whom we mourn the departure of a true giant in the continuing struggle to achieve the goal of a better life for our people, to which Ellen Khuzwayo dedicated her life.

Her Worship – the lesson that we have acquired from this fallen heroine is proof enough that women have potential and more energy than their counterparts.

The dedication shown by Ma Ellen is a symbol of women sacrifices and dedication to the liberation and struggle against injustices. Young women of our country are inspired by her selfless contribution and love for the people.

We believe that your solid leadership qualities, Her Worship - will enormously contribute to the development of Ventersdorp, Matlosana, Potchefstroom, Makwassie-Hills and Merafong. On his January 8 address, President Thabo Mbeki highlighted various important struggles that are embedded within this anniversary, to highlight three outstanding features of our struggle and movement, which must continue to guide us as we pursue our revolutionary struggle.

The President emphasized our commitment to building conscious and organized masses [the makers of history], united people (irrespective of race, class, gender and age) and we must continue to inspire their confidence because of the quality and commitment of the cadres and leaders and the loyalty to the people.

As we have already indicated, the work we did last year and few years before - confirmed the vital importance of our system of local government with regard to the achievement of the central goal of securing a better life for the people.

We have to work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our system of local government – and we are here to assist you in this endeavor. We wish you a successful tenure as the head of the region – and hope that your wisdom will benefit most of our people. You are all heartily welcome – and please enjoy the warmth of the City of Potchefstroom.

I thank you.