



RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: MAYOR`S SPEECH: 10 MAY 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

Honourable Speaker, Hon Orabile Seabelo

Chair of Chairs and Chairpersons of various Portfolio committees.

Members of the EXCO

Honourable Councillors

Batlotlegi, Dikgosi tsa rona

The Acting Municipal Manager

Baagi ba leng fano

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Speaker, allow me to start my address, by acknowledging the fact that today`s council meeting, marks yet another milestone in our term as a Political leadership of this Municipality. It is now almost a full two roller coaster of year`s stint from political and administration point of view. Whatever highs and lows we experienced, I am convinced that we learnt and are continuing to learn from it tremendously as we got to understand our communities and their challenges so much better.

As a council we got up close with many service hardships resulting from socio-economic conditions whilst at the same time we got to know the resilience of the human beings, people who will not give up, whatever life throws at them. Equally frustrating is the fact that the role of our councillors, politicians can never do enough, fast enough even if you are the ruling party. Speaker I must say, I do also acknowledge that majority of our community residents have their hearts in the right place and are indeed supporting us in our endeavours to deliver services to the communities.

Social Development

I think I must bring this critically important factors of society to the attention of all us who are gathered here today, including bagaetsho botlhe ba ba leng fano le Bogosi jaaka boetapele jwa morafe.

Motlotlegi Mmusu Kgotla, Ke ka leboga tota fa dintlha tse di latelang di ka tsewa tsia ke botlhe jaaka ketapele ya morafe

People with Disabilities

We have different classes of people within our communities and among those are people living with disabilities, our elderly people, youth, women and children. As council, we respect the fact that different people have different needs, and we must cater to a broad diversity of needs to make sure that everyone is included.

I strongly believe that we must value, and serve all our communities equally regardless of who they are, where they come from or abilities they do or do not have. I also believe that providing for people equitably does not mean serving them in the same way. We must care for people with every kind of disability and as council we must continue to implement the measures outlined in

Government Disability Policies coupled with relevant legislations. Yes, they do have needs like all of us, they do have special need to some extent. Let us care for our people who lives with disabilities.

Drugs and Alcohol

Alcohol and drugs misuse affects all sections of our community and as council we need to find ways of supporting community organisations that seeks to provide programs to reduce harm from drugs and alcohol abuse more especially by our youth. We must continue to undertake initiatives to improve social connections, the accessibility to sporting activities and other social support services to reduce the harmful impacts of drugs and alcohol use as well as promoting healthy living.

Education for our Youth and young children

Council believes that all our young people deserve an education which maximises their potential choices in life and as council we are in support of all efforts by other department and sector of society who seek better future for our children. Remember children are our future leaders and without proper and quality education they won't be able to take Ratlou anywhere into

developmental municipality. We urge parents to support their children`s education. Work with individual schools to provide educational opportunities where appropriate.

As council we will continue to support every initiative that seek to improve the education and training of young people of Ratlou. Initiatives such as Ratlou Telecentres are a living testimony to the effect that as Municipality we support local learning and training focused youth services.

Just last week Friday, over 60 young people graduated during our annual telecentres graduation ceremony held at Kraaipan Telecentre and as such, we continue to pride ourselves as municipality about the work we do to support education of our children and young unemployed members of the community. We would therefore like to urge all parents and youth of our communities not to deprive their younger sister and brothers this essential lifelong right to education even if it means striking for poor service delivery or any form of protests they may find themselves in.

This council has led the way in putting in place programs to promote a more sustainable community and will continue to do so. Popular institutions and programs such as Information, Communication Technology (ICT) End User Computing SAQA and others provided by National

Skill funds and others such USAASA and MIC SETA. We will support new programs designed to encourage a whole of community approach to sustainability.

As South Africans we were deprived better and quality education by apartheid rule and we cannot afford the same for our children, not in our lifetime. Destroying and damaging property and school facilities that our children so direly need is not and will never be a solution to our problems and as people we need to seek ways and better means to address issues.

Library Services

Ratlou Library Services provide extensive free access to information and knowledge, thought and culture. Council will maintain our libraries' independence and ability to serve the Ratlou Community. As council we must ensure that funds are sought for purchase of new books in our future budgeting processes. Our library serves as an information hub service points and we must ensure that they are comfortable, easy to use and available for study. New technology and media can improve services in without diminishing physical access to libraries.

Roads infrastructure

Council believes in maintaining and improving our internal roads, paths and associated infrastructure and will continue to use the five year financial plan to ensure that we also look at improving our roads by providing funding for the maintenance of our road networks and other infrastructure. In adding we will continue to lobby the Provincial Department and District Municipality to respectively maintain those roads that falls under their ambit more especially those roads that the community have voiced their outcry to us. Where new roads and infrastructure development is needed by the community, the community will be urged to include them in their future IDPs.

Community Participation

Council will continue to support and work in conjunction with communities in all the wards and traditional leadership in all villages across the Municipality. Effective consultation and an informed community are fundamentals of good governance. Knowledge and understanding is necessary if people are to participate in, and be satisfied with, our consultation.

Council believes that quality consultation leads to improved decision-making. As council we must ensure that our community`s voices are heard and we should seek consultation and feedback from residents on planning issues affecting them prior to council decisions being made. Increased community participation improved opportunities to develop new skills, social connections, self-esteem and well-being.

Community participation creates pride and ownership of community facilities and results in better access to funding for services and facilities. It is also the best way to promote and maintain Ratlou`s emphasis on being an open, transparent and consultative municipality with tolerant and fair community.

Waste

As council we support healthy and hygienic environment as envisaged by Government`s initiative towards zero waste strategy and will work with communities by constructing landfills whenever the need arise. We support efficient and reliable recycling and green waste services.

Let me complete by saying, this year is the year of Nelson Mandela and in just a month we will be celebrating our youth Month and as we continue to celebrate these two big milestones in our life history, as a community we must bold, let us be bold even if we have to drown in the ocean challenges, Mandela was bold in his fight against apartheid rule event when he was subjected to persecution and incarceration in an ocean, he never drowned he stayed resolute and bold. Therefore be bold even if you can see yourselves facing the changing winds of politics of the day.

Re le Masepala re ka leboga thata fa baagi ba ka tlhokomela ditirelo tse re ba di tlišetsang. Reaitse gore ga go a lekana, fela re re sejo sennyé ga se fete Molomo, ebile bana ba motho ba kgaogana tlhogo ya tsie.

Councillors, Dikgosi le Morafe, ka yo motsotso ke kopa go leta Kopano ye ya council go ya ka karolwana ya 18 (2) le 29 ya Puso Selegae: Molao yo o tsamaisang di Masepal 1988, go re Kgotla ye feletseng ya Kopano ya Balekgotla ba Masepala wa Ratlou e tshwarwe mo letsatsing le la 10 Motsheganong 2018.

Kealeboga bagaetsho!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

