

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS | JULY-DEC 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

MAYOR PHEEDI REFLECTS ON THE 6MONTHS GONE BY

The 1st of July marks commencement of the local government financial year – to us it means a renewed mandate for delivery of better services to our people. We've crisscrossed the entire Blouberg in a bid to solicit service delivery concerns and inputs from our citizens through the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) public participation programs ahead of adoption of the 2019-2020 IDP and Budget. That is not by any means a favour but a requirement as the statutes oblige us to do that.

Our minds and energies are all focused on creating an effective, efficient, accountable and responsive municipality. The 2018/19 capital projects reached their completion stages without any hindrances. We are now moving at breakneck pace, the Khawuleza spirit as envisioned by President Cyril Ramaphosa. We have already handed the sites to the contractors for some of our 2019/2020 projects notably, Senwabarwana substation, phase 5 internal streets and storm water projects for Makgato and Marobjane communities which are well underway with their expected completion period being five (5) and eight (8) months respectively.

On the 18th of July we celebrated the world's greatest day – former statesman President Nelson Mandela's birthday. I call on all of us to continue to exercise our humility and renew our commitment to making South Africa a better place to live in. Let's continue to honour this gallant freedom fighter who put up a relentless fight against the intransigent and seemingly untouchable apartheid government in order to free us. We can only reciprocate by being useful within our communities especially by coming through for the vulnerable not only on the 18th of July but all year round - let's make everyday a Mandela Day.

We regret the unfortunate turn of events that occurred during the month of September. Our country was engulfed with violence of xenophobic nature which marred and painted a bleak picture of our rainbow nation. I would like to extend my appreciation to President Cyril Ramaphosa for his astute leadership in calming the storm. We are all Africans and must unite. We further hope that such unsavory incidences will never repeat themselves.

The 1995 and 2007 'miracle' repeated itself. We are once again holders of the coveted Webb Ellis trophy by virtue of being champions of the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Though the win at Yokohama can be attributed to the collective guts of the players, the country and everyone concerned, mentioned has to be made of captain fantastic Siya Kolisi, who rewrote the history books by becoming the first black to lead the team to the ultimate victory – in a foreign land no less. The victory gave the nation a common purpose and enhanced a sense of belonging across the colour lines. For once South Africans forgot their differences and rallied behind their team – becoming one in the process. How we wish that could happen everyday.

November was not that good for Blouberg residents as thunderstorms wreaked havoc in some of the areas leaving about four hundred and eighty (480) households destitute. Our gratitude to the Capricorn District Municipality Disaster Management team in partnership with ourselves, the Red Cross Society and other government departments for attending to the situation and providing aid such as makeshift tents, salvage sheets, food and counselling among other things.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Kgoshi Aborekwi Thomas Mamadi for his inauguration as the traditional leader of Babirwa ba Mamadi.

As we observe the 16 days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, I would like to call on men to protect women instead of killing them. We've observed in recent months the gruesome murders of women by men throughout the country. To Blouberg men; let's break the circle of violence, let's act against abuse, and let's not look away. I challenge you Blouberg men to shun this barbaric act and embrace the not in my name mentality.

We cannot hide our public participation and HIV/AIDS Coordination success as we are faced with other challenges including the turning around of our financial performance. We have resolutions in place to enhance our revenue collection, internal controls in order for us to attain clean audit status.

We have just entered an exciting period of the year, the festive season. As another year comes to a close and we approach the festive season, it is always appreciated that we reflect on the year gone by, most importantly we have to be thankful for the gift of life. As the season is well upon us, I hope that we can all take time to think about those who are less privileged. In an area such as ours which is relatively underprivileged there will be many who face a bleak Christmas. Our gratitude go to stakeholders who have walked with us and talked to us into becoming a better municipality. Our service providers, employees, customers who all put their hands up to help us move forward.

It is also of utmost importance to be responsible. To motorists we call for calm, full adherence to the rules of the road; do not drink and drive, please stick to the correct load as required of the vehicle. This is no exception to pedestrians- please respect the rules applied to you

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!