



MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News editors/reporters

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NEW MAYOR AT THE HELM

Following days of speculation and uncertainty, the governing African National Congress came to a decision that Councilor Sammy Selamolela becomes Mayor and new man at the helm of the then beleaguered Blouberg Municipality in the place of the recalled councilor SeriteSekgoloane. **The man who cut his political teeth as a student, becoming a prominent member of the South African Students' Congress (SASCO) and growing in the African National Congress (ANC) ranks pre 1994 which makes him one of a few cadres of a special kind that just did not jump the bandwagon, but had the aspirations of the people at heart since the only reward then was hope for the total emancipation of the people. There was no doubting the man's pedigree.**

Selamolela is no spring chicken to the local government scenario, having been anointed the first Speaker of the Blouberg Municipality Council following the advent of such councils in the aftermath of Transitional Local Councils (TLCs) mergers. If anything he is political administrative interface personified, a veteran who have served as administrator for at least seven different MECs within the Limpopo Provincial Administration. If Blouberg needed a leader with the acumen and adept at both political and administrative fronts, then there was no question on who fitted the bill in that regard.

The selfsame Mokgalaka, his clan name, was the master pioneer of the much enthused public participation machinery which is country wide acclaimed. To date we are still undoubtedly far ahead of our contemporaries in the community involvement stakes, thanks to the man himself. It just goes to show a man who understands the notion of *triaspolitika* which draws clear distinctions between the legislative, the executive and the judicial arms of government. There indeed is no doubt that Blouberg Municipality will move to even further dizzy heights.

In his acceptance speech councilor Selamolela acknowledged the role that his predecessor councilor SeriteSekgoloane played in ensuring that the Blouberg ship was steered in the right direction. He further mentioned that his core mandate was to retain stability in the under siege municipality which was bedeviled and characterized by labour discontentment and an assortment of allegations. He emphasized that by resuscitating the Local Labour Forum (LLF), a platform where both the employer and employee components go a long way in finding the much sought after common ground, he would have half the battle won. Service delivery should always supersede everything else because it is the reason in the first instance for the existence of municipalities.

The Mayor further sought an audience with the work force where he reiterated and impressed upon them the need for them to execute their tasks diligently and with compassion. With the new Mayor at the helm, Blouberg is bound to go places.

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