

INTRODUCING THE MAN IN THE HOT SEAT: CLLR PHEEDI MS

The 2016 Local Government Elections have come and gone. The overriding implication thereof is that there is supposed to be renewed vigour in confronting the triple challenges, succinctly so named to encompass poverty, inequality and unemployment. Ordinarily the service delivery machinery should be propelled full swing in order to ensure that whichever were perceived as problems in the past, should be viewed in a different light for the electorate to have their hopes in the government of the day restored. The million dollar question becomes who has been given the enviable task of steering and navigating the Blouberg Municipality ship into calmer waters as well as effective and efficient service delivery.

Maseka Solomon Pheedi has been mandated by the majority African National Congress (ANC) to lead the charge of ascertaining that the individual and collective basic rights as enshrined in the constitution are fulfilled. Born and bred in the early 1960's at Johannesburg Farm (Ga Maphoto), Pheedi like all at that time, experienced the hardships reminiscent of the Apartheid legacy. There were very limited opportunities at that time which led to many kids his age not appreciating the essence and significance of education and thus opting for the short route of leaving school and heading to what was then perceived as the glamorous cities. Contrary to popular belief then, Pheedi sought and found solace in the books and had the insatiable desire to become a better person regardless of the tough upbringing and persistent temptation to join his other peers in the city of gold.

The newly installed institutional head comes with an academic and professional acumen that ranks high among the who's who in the political mainstream. Besides an array of qualifications that include a Bachelor's Degree, diplomas and certificates mostly in the education fraternity, councillor Pheedi comes with a background of being an out and out community developer and esteemed academic as evidenced by his record as one of the longest serving member of the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), which is of course part of the broader alliance collective. He also served in the SANCO Regional Executive Committee. When the African National Congress (ANC) was unbanned, comrade Pheedi was among the first crop who heeded the call to swell the ranks in the early 1990s and has been a loyal member ever since. He became the Blouberg ANC Deputy Sub Regional Chairperson from the 2008 – 2014 and subsequently assumed the Chairpersonship from 2015 to present day.

When moves to transform some of what was then known as Colleges of Education into more vocational Further Education and Training centres were mooted, he became Chairperson of the Bochum College of Education's Transitional Council which culminated in the establishment of the Senwabarwana FET College (TVET) as we see it today. That only serves to lay bare the astuteness of the man who is evidently also a negotiator par excellence. The man served in various developmental structures as an educator, lecturer and curriculum advisor in Bochum Cluster Circuit. They mostly do not come any better than that in ensuring interaction with the communities.

If his acceptance speech is anything to go by, it is abundantly clear that Pheedi is hell bent on making sure that Blouberg Municipality ranks among the elite in the service delivery discourse. His easy to relate to approach and respect for human life ranks as an ace up his sleeve as many can attest to the fact that he has evidently adopted an open door policy i.e everyone from all walks of life is guaranteed attention by his office. He is a man who hates bureaucratic red tapes with a passion and believes in action. It is anticipated that the next five years will be very eventful for the Bloubergers and it is also hoped that, with the cooperation of all involved, the new man at the helm will deliver on the mandate as set out. Looking forward to a fruitful union with the Blouberg citizenry, all the best Mokgalaka!!!

