

REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 MEDIA NETWORKING SESSION HELD AT ALOE BUSH GAME LODGE OUTSIDE GROBLERSDAL ON THE 14TH MARCH 2019, 18:00PM.

Mosepedisi wa Modiro

Members of the Mayoral Committee present here this eveing;

Friends from the Media;

Employees of our Municipalities;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Evening!

Thobela!

Programme Director

Allow me to hasten and say that tonight is not a night for long speeches. Rather this is a night which we have carefully dedicated to come and engage with our friends from the media in a more relaxed environment. And I am deeply honoured to be part of this occasion.

Please allow me to raise just some few points which I feel are critical during this engagement. And safe to state that media networking sessions in their character and shape are designed to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones between us as government and yourselves as the fourth estate.

In your different newsrooms across the province, you are contributing meaningfully in shaping the agenda of the day and we would like to thank you very much for this significant role you are playing in society. Indeed you set the tone for the national agenda.

You have been with us since our election as the 4th Council in August 2016 and for that we thank you once again. We have been able to build a solid relationship irrespective of the different challenges that we face each day, and again, we thank you very much.

During the 'Great Bank Heist' – the VBS scandal – you have supported this ANC government and reported on efforts to deal with this emotive issue. And for your contribution on this matter we thank you very much.

Programme Director

And as we suffer the aftermaths of these irregular investments which impacted negatively on our service delivery mandate, we are appealing for your support so that together we make our people understand the measures we employ as government to troubleshoot the problem. Herein referring to the interventions of the ANC and government.

You have supported our district municipality during the times when we were engulfed by the R5,4 million fraudulent scandal. We thank you for exercising patients while we were still awaiting the finalization of reports by the forensic auditors and the law firm assigned to this fraud.

Together, more than 90% of the money has been recovered, some employees are facing disciplinary actions, and criminal cases have been opened against them. In due course, we will make the final report of this fraud available to you so that you can share it with the public. Thank you once more.

Programme Director

We have gathered here tonight ahead of a very important engagement that will be taking place tomorrow, that is the State of the District Address 2019. We have called you here not to go deeper into the citizen's report itself, rather to inform you that in terms of our preparations, it is all systems go.

We hope to give feedback to our 1,1 million people on issues that we have raised with them as we were presenting last year at Moreko Secondary School. And in the main, our commitments were centred around the following:

- Water and Sanitation;
- Local Economic Development;
- Spatial Rational and Land Use Management;
- Our relationship with Traditional Leaders;
- The fight against triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality; etc.

Programme Director

We have journeyed far too long with you. And marching towards Dichoeung village tomorrow for SODA, we will be honouring Kgosi Matlala and his people, we will also be igniting the spirits of our struggle heroes and heroinees who hail from that that area and Ephraim Mogale Municipality as a whole.

We are proud to have been part of you throughout our two and half years in council, that is our Mid Term. We know it was not easy on your part taking into consideration the fact that our country is under technical recession. And our district municipality depends on grants.

And on the other hand yourselves as the media depend on advertising for sustainability and I know that we are contributing meaningfully, however, that is not enough. Please pardon us because this attitude does not represent us rather it is caused by the material conditions on the ground.

Allow me to say that we are together in this trajectory and where possible we will endeavour to intensify our support to our friends in the media. Without you we will not be able to communicate our stories well and we recommit our support to you.

As for tonight, let it be the night. Lets us please interact, engage and have fun. Our job is for tomorrow and you are all blessed. May Sekhukhune be good to you all.

I thank you! Kea Leboga!