

**CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS BY THE EXECUTIVE
MAYOR OF POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MOSEMA MAKORO
JOHN MPE DURING STRATEGIC PLANNING AT EUPHORIA GOLF
ESTATE – 25 APRIL 2022**

Speaker of Council, Cllr Wilhelmina Modiba

Chief Whip, Cllr Adolph Rapetswa

Members of the Mayoral Committee present

Our Traditional Leaders represented by Kgoši Dikgale and Kgoši Mothiba
in absentia

Acting Municipal Manager Mr Selepe.

Directors and Managers present

Leaders and shop stewards of the labour unions SAMWU and IMATU

All municipal employees present

Good day!

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, I thank all of you for coming and especially for your active participation in this Strategic Plan Session in a manner than generated valuable ideas for the development of Polokwane Municipality and our people.

I noted with appreciation the way we reviewed progress of implementing our activities but I must say that a lot still needs to be done if we are real about our people and attaining unqualified audit opinion.

At the end of it all, it's about our people and their needs that we must service.

The session stressed the need for radical change in the way we do things at the municipality – and this requires urgent action from all of us seated here at Euphoria.

In our effort to improve service delivery, we conducted public participation session in a form of IDP/Draft Budget consultation with communities from all our seven Clusters and Strategic Development Area 1.

I am deeply happy that the following issues among others have been sharply raised during the IDP consultations: water, roads, RDP houses and jobs, issues that we also emphasised during this two-day Strategic Planning Session.

AUDIT OPINION

We are working very hard in our quest to achieve an unqualified audit opinion. We are preparing a nine months' financial statement so that we can have interim audit for the first time before the real audit at the end of financial year.

I believe that the strategy has worked for us when I was still at Capricorn District Municipality trying to bring the Auditor-General earlier. Our plan now is to achieve an unqualified audit opinion to gradually reduce the number of findings until we move toward a clean audit. It is not going to be an obvious success.

We have strengthened the Budget and Treasury Office (BTO) in our effort to move away from qualified audit opinion by roping in the brains of CFO from Capricorn District Municipality to be Deputy CFO at Polokwane Municipality. He has experience from both AG and as qualified Chartered Accountant. He has worked in the environment for a very long time.

Most importantly, he has achieved two consecutive clean audits as a CFO at CDM and two unqualified audit opinions.

We want to deal with the issue of compliance and reduce irregular expenditure, do away with wasteful and fruitless expenditure. We believe that his experience will come a long way. So, that brings the total number of Chartered Accountants in Polokwane to two. We are confident and very happy to welcome him to Polokwane as Deputy CFO.

Acting MM,

We have agreed that we are going to use the GROW methodology: G – Goal; R – Reality; O – Option and W – Will.

We agreed that we will guide the development of Polokwane Municipality; develop a plan to be followed; work with traditional leaders; and all other stakeholders and partners involved in our land.

This Strategic Planning Session further reaffirms our stance that we are working on a plan to turn our **rural areas** into **townships**; and turning our townships into towns on our path to envisioned metro.

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

We have spoken to our employees and reaffirmed our commitment to serve our people with a smile. And when we conducted the IDP consultative sessions, the communities displayed their quest for change from us. Even today, I still emphasis on **CHANGE**.

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” As Churchill said. Indeed, this quote is the essence of Change Intelligence: to lead change, we must start with ourselves first as Nelson Mandela said ***“The most difficult matter is not so much to change the world as yourself.”***

As the 1st African American and the 44th American President, Barack Obama said ***“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”*** So I want that change now for the betterment of the lives of the people of Polokwane.

Our performance system will be cascaded down to accommodate all our employees and reward those that perform while assisting those that don't perform. We will assist them by empowering them through a carrot and sjambok strategy.

We need our employee to work hard in the implementation of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

WATER

Issues of water need urgent action from us. We need to find ways of augmenting water sources to provide constant water supply to the residents and businesses within Polokwane Municipality. There is a need for us to work hand in glove with the water utility Lepelle Northern Water for alternative supply and also the Capricorn District Municipality for best practises on water issues.

Let us get our alternative sources tested so that we can have alternative sources of water supply to all our villages.

All water projects must be completed. All projects must have starting and ending time. Where contractors are not performing to their agreement, administration should not hesitate to terminate the contract guided by the prescripts of law.

ROADS AND FLEET

I wish to reiterate as indicated in my opening remarks the prioritisation of tarring of strategic roads within villages and townships. We need to tar the roads that are strategic enough for our local economy and are linking to major destinations. We need to pave the roads that are strategic within a particular community where there are socio-economic compelled reasons for us to do something about it. And I said yesterday that, should we not be able to tar or pave, we need to build our internal capacity to have our own yellow fleet such so that, in the meantime, we grade and regravell using our own plant, our own equipment and our own people.

Our people, in particular the Aganang Cluster, need a honey sucker – we need to deliver on that.

APOLLO LIGHTS

Director Fourie,

The Premier of Limpopo, Hon. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has once given an instruction that Apollo lights be installed to all meshate. We need to conduct an analysis of our progress in terms of implementing the instruction from our honourable Premier. We should be able to know how many lights were installed and which traditional authorities still need to be provided with the lights. The same applies to roads to all our traditional authorities.

Infrastructure development is core for local government developmental agenda and therefore needs to be strengthened so that there should be sufficient capacity to respond to massive challenges of basic service delivery especially on human rights issues like access to portable water, sanitation, roads and storm water

RDP houses

As I mentioned yesterday that we have received a level two accreditation by the Minister which gives us the authority to build RDP houses to our constituencies. If we haven't started engaging COGHSTA, we need to engage the department now on knowledge sharing and best practises so that once we receive the necessary budgets from the National Treasury, we can then hit the ground running as **Geoffrey Chaucer said "time and tide wait for no man"**. Simply put, we cannot stop the passing of time, and therefore we should not delay implementation of what is necessary to

deliver much needed services to the people of Polokwane. Now is the right time! Planning ahead is central to the execution of the municipal programme.

Programme Director,

Coming out of this very important session, we need to ask ourselves if this two-day session will bring change to the development of Polokwane Municipality and its people or whether we are just doing it only for compliance purposes to achieve our KPAs and KPIs.

All directorate must be able to come with smart resolutions that must be quantified in terms of time implementation frames.

We must implement the resolutions from this session and plan for the benefit of our communities.

Great expectations will depend on the implementation of the strategic objectives and plans emanating out of this session and IDPs. We have to transform these sessions into engines which solve problems and map out a clear way forward. It is our duty as leaders of society to fight against poverty, contribute in the creation of job opportunities and service delivery.

Programme director,

The outcome of this strategic planning session must guide us in our mission to provide cost effective services which promote sustainable livelihood through socio-economic development and good governance. We must remain focused in ensuring that we deliver on our mandate.

I am confident that we all appreciate the magnitude of the task placed on our shoulders by our people and that all of us realise the need to act in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the goals we have set ourselves. Let us go back to our workstations and get down to business.

I thank those of you who put together, in a team spirit, the presentations. I am sure you will agree with me that the discussions that followed the presentations were lively and constructive.

The impact of our deliberations must be felt in all the communities. All the issues which were raised in the two days must find expression and their place in our strategic and operational plans as matters of importance and performances for everyone.

I also thank the facilitators for ably moderating the sessions.

As our struggle icon and the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela said

- ***“It always seems impossible until it's done.”***

I wish all participants a safe journey home and declare this Strategic Planning Session closed.

Modimo o pala baloi!