



ORDINARY COUNCIL SPEECH BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR Z.I DUMZELA ON THE 03/10/2019 IN BARKLY EAST

Honourable Speaker

Mayors and speakers from the local Municipalities

Chief Whip from the District and Local municipalities

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Traditional Leaders

Councillors

Municipal Managers, Directors and officials

Members of the civil society

Members of the community

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker

A country which does not keep its heritage lacks its identity.

In deciding to make Heritage Day one of our national days, the first democratic elected government did so because of its respect for the varied cultural heritage and the power it holds to build a new nation.

President Ramaphosa in his heritage day speech at Mxolisi Dicky Jacobs Stadium in Uptington said that language in South Africa is diverse and there is no language in this country that is superior to another. I want to encourage you to elevate your language by ensuring that you teach your children to appreciate their mother tongue. Encourage the youth to speak, read, write – even dream - in their mother tongue to keep it alive and vibrant.

Gender Based Violence has been on the forefront of the media since the brutal rape and murders of a number of young women during August and September this year.

Uyinene Mrwetyana was killed in daylight at a public office. Former boxing champion, Leighandre Jegels was shot and killed by her boyfriend who is in the police service. The same people who should protect the community. At Lusikisiki, a six year old girl was allegedly raped by a teacher of her school.

Consequent to protests all over the country by mothers, daughters, sisters, friends and colleagues, President Cyril Ramaphosa called for a joint sitting of parliament to discuss Gender Based Violence which came up with an emergency action plan to fight against violence – especially women and children in South Africa.

As a District let us commit on strategic programmes to deal with this crisis. The time for dialogue is long gone. It is time for action that will ensure that we deal decisively with this scourge.

South Africa is committed to uphold and respect the human rights of all people. The xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals in August this year was strongly criticized by government and institutions in South Africa as

well as in our neighbouring countries. It is the opposite of our constitution and our policies. Communities should not take the law into their own hands. These issues should be addressed through available and already existing platforms . In our own District these platforms are available and operational to ensure stability.

Mr Speaker ,the District has been subjected to a prolong drought which is in its 3rd financial year.

Groundwater sources cannot recover, and according to the seasonal weather forecasts, the summer rains will only start late this year. It is also predicted that rainfall will be below normal. Based on this information, Drought awareness campaigns will be rolled out across the District starting this month. There are areas in our district which are critical. In Burgersdorp and Maclear dams have dried up . The Orange river is in a critical state as no water flows into the river from adjoining streams and rivers. As council you must ensure that communities are aware of the grip of the drought and the many implications this is having on our communities.

The debt write-off campaign in Mt Fletcher as approved by council has started on the 1st of October. Communities in Mt Fletcher received the campaign with positive attitude . Communities are still encouraged to install pre-paid water meters as part of the District's water mitigation strategy.

Honourable Speaker, President Cyril Ramaphosa has introduced a new integrated district based approach to addressing our service delivery challenges . The new District Coordination Model is embedded on the existing legal and intergovernmental frameworks to enhance their impact on service delivery and community development.The model

emphasises cooperative governance and formulation of one strategic developmental blueprint that is adopted by all three spheres of government. The adopted 'One Plan' takes into consideration the common diagnostics of service delivery institutions and the state of service delivery.

The District is committed to improve the lives of the people⁴⁰ Rams were procured by the institution and distributed to the Elundini and Senqu communal farmers to improve their livestock as part of job creation and food security.

Mr Speaker, the National Council of Provinces visited our District to get first hand information about Walter Sisulu Local Municipality. During my welcome I stated that the Local Government Regulations and policies are hampering service delivery and need to be reviewed. Both National and Provincial governments are treating Local Government as a step-child. That should come to an end.

I appealed for the serious intervention in Walter Sisulu Local Municipality . Failure to intervene will see to the collapse of the municipality. Included in the discussion was the escalating Eskom debt of the municipality.

NCOP chairperson indicated that the Walter Sisulu Municipality situation is treated as priority on their discussions around the distressed municipalities .

On the 17 and 18th of October 2019, the Provincial Executive Council will be in our region as part of their annual outreach. Amongst other things, they will visit projects, interact with civil servants and other stakeholders.

Mr Speaker, the Province is always experiencing high rate of death incidents during the initiation season. I am appealing to all members of

the community to comply with the Provincial circumcision Act that only 18 old and above should attend initiation schools.

Mr Speaker, we are less than 24 months to local government elections. As council we should engage with the communities on all aspects of service delivery. Let us be proactive in our public participation to reduce possible escalation of protests and violence.

In conclusion, the District Mayoral cup will take place this coming Saturday 05 October at the Nkululeko Stadium in Barkly East. You are all invited to attend the event as part of your support towards youth development through sport.

I thank you.