

**ADDRESS BY MEC FOR CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MJ MSIBI ON THE
OCCASION OF EHLANZENI MUNICIPAL DIALOGUE
WITH EMAKHOSI.**

**DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2019
VENUE: NUTTING HOUSE**

Programme Director,

**Honourable Speaker of Ehlanzeni District, Cllr
Khumalo,**

**Honourable Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District,
Cllr Sidel,**

**Honourable Executive Mayors, Councillors and Chief
Whips from our Local Municipalities present here,**

**Chairperson of the Ehlanzeni Local House, Inkhosi
Khumalo and members of the Executive of the Local
House,**

Amakhosi/ Makgoshi from Ehlanzeni

**The Municipal Manager, Mr Sibozza and all Senior
officials of Ehlanzeni District, the Provincial
Government and our Local Municipalities present
here,**

Representatives of SALGA Mpumalanga,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani

1. Programme Director, congratulations are in order for Ehlanzeni District for convening such a crucial dialogue for the two institutions of leadership, Local Government and Traditional Leadership to interact and discuss developmental issues.
2. We congratulate the Executive Mayor and the entire leadership for this wisdom and Emakhosi, under the leadership of the Chairperson of the Local House, Inkhosi Khumalo, for warming up to the concept and attend.
3. When the Speaker, Cllr Khumalo, announced the plan for this dialogue during the cultural ceremony (ummemo) ebukhosini baka-Mbuyane last month, eClau Clau, I waited with excitement for the invitation, and would have attended even if I was not invited.
4. Programme Director, land use management has fuelled unnecessary misconceptions about the two institutions. Allocation of land for stands and for business purposes, especially in areas within the jurisdiction of Emakhosi, is at the centre of these misconceptions. In some instances, this is done by unscrupulous individuals who allocated stands, using the name of bukhusi to make quick cash.

5. As such, many people find themselves living in areas not designed for human habitation. Unfortunately, when Municipalities step in, this is viewed as interference in land belonging to Emakhosi, yet the allocation of land in this nature produce undesirable outcomes, including the public protests.

6. This gave rise to cases of land invasion which the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs is looking at with the view to arrest the perpetrators, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between COGTA, SALGA, Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and the South African Police Services (SAPS).

7. We encourage adherence to the Spatial planning of Land Use Management (SPLUMA) and all related pieces of legislation as a solution for the proper use of land. This will prevent the undesirable outcomes such as those I have alluded to above.

8. So I look forward to the outcomes of this dialogue. The outcomes will also be used as a guideline for the benefit of the two other districts, steeped into similar challenges.

9. History has taught us that if we do things the same

way all the time, results will be the same. And so the outcomes of this dialogue will serve as a quantum leap towards the solutions of land use management.

10. Programme Director, our position as COGTA is that Emakhosi have a critical role to play the development of our communities. It gives us a sense of comfort when we see bukhosi taking part in on health matters, as members of Hospital Boards. We are inspired when bukhosi participate in School Governing Bodies (SGBs).

11. In the Local Government environment, the participation of bukhosi in Municipal Councils is a legislative imperative. Section 81 of the Municipal Structures Act is quite explicit. No development can take place in tribal communities without the participation of traditional leadership.

12. We commend bo-Ndabezitha who participate in Ehlanzeni District Council. We hope you will do so consistently in order to guide and influence the decisions of Council for the benefit of rural communities.

13. This will also afford you the opportunity to track progress of Council resolutions and to ask difficult questions when resolutions are implemented, but

not to your satisfaction.

14. We just have to improve in terms of consistency. Unfortunately, if municipalities were to be audited against Section 81 of the Structures' Act, there will be findings due to inconsistency attendance by Emakhosi, hence we encourage you to attend at all times.

15. We are satisfied with the participation of bukhosi in various forums of our municipalities, such as Ward Committees and in the Council of Stakeholders for Operation Vuka Sisebente (OVS). It is imperative that the voice of Emakhosi is heard in those forums as they play a crucial part to shape the decisions of development.

16. Programme Director I was impressed last year when the Executive Mayor committed the District to work closely with bukhosi during the opening of the Local House. At the time I was still serving as Speaker of the City of Mbombela.

17. She spoke about bursaries that are offered by the District, and suggested that Emakhosi can assist through the identification of potential candidates in their own areas and share the names with the District for support.

18. This was a progressive move as this will ensure that the poorest of the poor who are often marginalized in such initiatives, are recognized as beneficiaries.

19. Programme Director, the 6th Administration of the ANC-led government is seized with the task of improving service delivery, such as water and sanitation and electricity. Unemployment, which contributes to the high levels of poverty, is high on the agenda of this government.

20. The President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa declared unemployment as a crisis that must be confronted in all its forms.

21. We are sitting at 10 million the number of unemployed people in this country, as stated by STATS SA. Undoubtedly, the majority of these people are in rural areas where economic activities that provide job opportunities are less.

22. This calls for Local Government and traditional leadership to strengthen the working relations as we step up the fight against unemployment and poverty. We encourage the participation of emakhosi in IDP

forums. IDP forums are planning tools in a municipal space, that bring all stakeholders, structures and individuals to the same table to plan for the proper utilization of resources for development purpose.

23. As I indicated earlier, there shall be no planning for rural communities without the participation of traditional leaders, as set out in Section 81 of the Structures' Act.

24. We encourage bukhusi to participate in these forums. It is not for warming up the seats but for a meaningful decision making exercise that will result in the implementation of projects in tribal areas, thus creating job opportunities.

25. Programme Director, with these few words, I wish you success for the deliberations and hope that the outcomes of this dialogue will give effect to the aspirations of the 5 Local Government in our country.

Bayede bo-Ndabezitha. Ngiyabonga.