

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, MR JIHAD MOHAPI

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Councillors

Leaders of various parties present

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Baahi ba Moqhaka Municipality

This August occasion marks a very significant moment in our life time. A moment which will always remind us that we are where we are as a result of fallen heroes and heroins. People who had to nourish the tree of Revolution through their blood. This historical day coincide with the very important month in our history, a Youth Month. It also coincides with the most significant day, 100 days count down towards Rugby World Cup. All of us lets ensure that we all support our team.

Madame Speaker, i wish to acknowledge in our mist the presence of our PEC member and MEC of Education Ntate Tate Makgoe.

Now that the bruising battle of canvassing for votes amongst the political parties has ended, it is an opportune time to put our political differences aside and unite in our developmental efforts of providing effective and efficient services to the residents of the nascent Moqhaka.

The Moqhaka Council, that is ushered in today, will strive to ensure that all its critical components namely the political leadership comprising of all political parties represented in the Council, the municipal administration (*management, workers and organised labour*) and the broader community of

Moqhaka (*inclusive of civil society formations, business and faith-based organisations*) act in unison in a strategic partnership and work together in taking Moqhaka to greater heights.

We are indeed humbled by the confidence that the communities of Moqhaka have shown in the ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC) and we dare not fail them. Sincerest congratulations to fellow councillors who are representing their political parties and I am inviting you to join us on this exciting and trying journey of providing services and continuously striving to improve the standard and quality of services to all our Citizens across the different races.

Madame Speaker, working together across varied political spectrum, will enable us to find workable and enduring solutions to a diverse range of developmental challenges that will face Moqhaka as a municipality.

Madame Speaker, allow me to convey my sincere appreciation to my predecessor Me Mantebu Mokgosi who left the baton for me ,we observed significant progress under her direction and astute leadership.

MadamSpeaker, let me hasten to acknowledge that the mentioned progress would not have been attained without the indispensable contribution and the unstinting support provided by the members of the former council of Moqhaka.

Madame Speaker, allow me, to share with this august house, some of these achievements:

Completed critical projects such as ***upgrading of streets, provision of lands and sites, installation of infrastructure services and maintenance of service delivery infrastructure*** among our communities and citizens;

The Flagship Marabastad Revitalisation Project which entails the – paving of streets and provision of shelter (Breaking New Ground /BNG houses) is nearing completion and will thus lay a solid foundation for creation of sustainable human settlements. This bears eloquent testimony to the seamless integrated co-operation by and amongst three spheres in delivering quality services to our communities within the tenets of sound Inter-Governmental Relations. Once again thanks to Premier of the Free State Ntate Segobelo Ace Magashule for his outstanding support to our municipality.

Madame Speaker, during the past months, when canvassing votes for local government elections we facilitated a dialogue with our citizens who provided feedback on how services are being provided and service delivery challenges that our people faces on a daily basis.

These interactions have enhanced our experiences and understanding of the enormity of the service delivery challenges that we face as a Moqhaka.

Madame Speaker, I want to give assurance that we are keenly aware of what these challenges are that should be promptly and earnestly addressed in the immediate, medium to long term. These are:

- **Road and storm-water drainage systems backlogs** in our townships;
- **Effective maintenance of service delivery infrastructure** – particularly the fixing of potholes; rehabilitation of roads, repair of street lights and fixing of broken traffic lights
- Ensuring **reliable water reticulation services within our municipality in particular Phomolong, Steynsrus and Viljoenskroon**;
- Ensuring access **to service sites for all the citizens; upgrading all informal settlements within our municipality and provide services (water, sanitation, roads) and dealing effectively with the phenomenon of urbanisation** as part of the expedited implementation of the novel **Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP)** utilising the **Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG)** as a source to curb this challenge; thanks to Dept of Human Settlement cause in Rammolutsi 4000 sites are getting developed
- Ensuring **effective refuse removal, and greening our areas**;
- Rigorous improvement of the financial viability of the Municipality by robustly dealing with billing challenges and ensuring revenue enhancement
- Dealing with disclaimers from the Office of the Auditor-General by engendering systems and processes to ensure an accountable and prudent financial management of our resources; and finally obtaining a Clean Audit by 2014

Allow me Madame Speaker to take this opportune moment to formally announce in terms of section 60[2] which gives power to the Exec Mayor to appoint the members of the Mayoral Committee Members which stands as follows:

Let me take this opportunity to thank those members of the community who have been sending messages of support immediately after the ANC announcement for their Mayoral Candidates. It will not augur well if one cannot thank those that have praying for one to succeed in the responsibility that one resumes, in particular the Methodist Church under Reverend Mxolisi Mnaba, the Giant Organisation ANC which has entrusted me with this responsibility which will always needs us to work as a team. I wish to invite all men and women who are in and around Moqhaka, those that were born and bred in Moqhaka to join hands in our endeavour to uplift our area to resume the same status that can prove that Moqhaka can make it. Yes indeed this road is not gonna be easy, but patiently we gonna get there, where we will put Moqhaka once again on the map. In conclusion allow me to convey my sincere appreciation to the ANC structures in Moqhaka for the upbringing of one as Cadre of this Moment, in particular Cde Khotso Sesele, cde Jeff Mohlabula, the Late cde Kgatliso Moeketse the least is endless. Lastly my sincere appreciation to my family ie my Wife Sasa, Muhammed, Leshoro and Aisha and my extended families for their outstanding support they gave me. Finally thanks to Almighty Allah for giving me this life and also protecting me so far.

Alhamdulillah

I am humbled and honoured to serve the people from the area of jurisdiction of Moqhaka Municipality and I will be at their service.

