

**THE STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS (SOMA) OF HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE FETAKGOMO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR. RAESETSE ELIZABETH SEFALA, DELIVERED ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 15H30**

**Madam Speaker;**

**Members of the Executive Committee and Councilors;**

**Traditional leaders;**

**Business Leaders;**

**Political Parties;**

**Representatives and leaders of Civil Society, Youth, Women and People with Disability**

**The Senior Officials;**

**Members of the broader public**

We are meeting here today hardly **nine** days after the celebrations of the national Human Rights Day. The 21<sup>st</sup> March is celebrated as a human rights day and should not be taken for granted.

Almost everyone remembers the **massacre** of our people on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1960 who marched peacefully to local police stations throughout the country to free African men from carrying their passes.

According to **Chief Albert Luthuli**, "**The liberation struggle was on in earnest**". People were in cheerful, non-violent revolutionary mood when they were shot dead, mostly shot at the back. Bodies lied dead on the road and pavements. The total toll was **69** recorded dead and **180** had bullet wounds. The Apartheid Government **perpetrated** such a brutal pain and humiliation on a **voteless** and **defenseless** people.

Events in Sharpeville Massacre or the Year 1960 could be described as a **year of destiny for many** and at the sametime an indicator of **strong liberation struggle**.

News of Sharpeville Massacre and other murderous killings perpetuated by the Apartheid was received with **horror** in SA and abroad. The words of the founding President of a democratic and free South Africa, His Excellency, **Nelson Mandela** calculated that:

**“By the middle of June 1960, figures of killings had risen to well over 300 killed and 500 wounded people”.**

For many years our people including in our Sekhukhune area have been sacrificed and subjected to vicious attacks by the Apartheid regime.

**Mandela**, for example, remembers that:

**“In 1957, there were considerable mass unrests and disturbances in the country, Districts of Zeerust, Sekhukhuneland and Rustenburg... in all these areas, there were revolts against the pass laws...”.**

The Nationalist Party Government used its legal powers to launch a full-scale attack on our people. Unlike theirs, ours is to launch full-scale commitment to **Build Better Communities**.

### **SEKHUKHUNE UPRINGS: 1958**

The wars of resistance across the length and breadth of our country as well towed Sekhukhune. However, as a people we fought to ensure the protection of our land in order to attain the wealth of our region and indigenous place of birth. The people rallied around moral, social, political and economic values. In fighting the illegitimate, inhuman and discriminatory system of apartheid, there was a collaboration between Fetakgomo and Mathuduthamaga as spears for necessities against the white domination. Fetakgomo originates from the Feta kgomo ke moriri wa hloga: It’s for this cause and reason that today our municipality named after the glorious revolutionary history of our people.

This State of the Municipality Address provides an opportunity to share thoughts and progress in regard of overall municipal governance.

In general terms, we have worked harder to achieve numerous targets as set in our six critical performance areas.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ANC-LED FETAKGOMO MUNICIPALITY

From both corporate and financial governance viewpoints, independent, objective professional opinion indicates that we are doing exceptionally well. For example, a trend analysis of the Auditor-General's opinion over the years reveals that our performance graph is on the rise.

2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Qualified Opinion	Unqualified with emphasis of matter	Unqualified with emphasis of matter	Clean opinion

A comparative study in other municipalities shows that Fetakgomo is the only Municipality in the Limpopo Province and one of the four Municipalities in the Country, RSA that got a **clean audit opinion**.

A recent *Community Satisfaction Survey* released on January 2011, administered by the Department of Local Government and Housing found that the Fetakgomo Municipality is doing exceptionally well in terms of:

- electricity provision;
- public participation; and
- caring for orphans.

The *Survey* warns the Municipality to:

- stop delays in the delivery of services; and
- extend services to all other wards than focusing on the neighbouring wards.

The following key improvement recommendations are suggested by those who were surveyed:

- work together;
- work hard;
- give tenders to capable people; and
- improve sanitary conditions at the Bopedi Complex.

As the Municipality we accept these recommendations as the basis for the customer care strategy. The overall findings of the survey help us to assess the extent of the customer

satisfaction with service delivery and to identify the areas where the community required improvement.

### A Synopsis on Basic Services Delivery and Infrastructural Development

There is strong, conclusive empirical evidence indicating that we have eradicated grid electricity backlogs in Fetakgomo with **Shubushubung** as the final village currently being electrified. We will therefore meet the **2012 electricity target**. Today, +/- **80% (22 727 out of 28 409)** of the households have been **electrified**.

Moreover, the following villages will benefit from post-connection electrification in the 2011/12

### Proposed ESKOM Interventions (2011/12)

Electrification Project s	Conn	Budget
Matebane / Magabaneng / Malaeneng / Magagamatala / Matamong / Moshate / Mototolwaneng / Sepakapakeng / Seleteng	98	
Mohlala / Mmela / Radingwana / Phageng / Lekgwarapeng / Rite / Malaeneng a Maphuthe	146	
Maroteng (Mohlaetse) / Mesopotamia / Bofala / Ditlokwe / Lerajane / Matotomale / Photo / (Ga-Tladi) Sekateng / Malaeneng / Tjebane / Komane / Makgaleng	193	
Nchabeleng / Mashabela / Matlala / Sekurung / Thabanaseshu / Thobehlale	172	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>R8 209 520</b>

financial year:

Closely tied to this, is that the Fetakgomo Municipality is currently providing indigent support to about **2 500** households who are beneficiaries of **Free Basic Electricity**.

All schools and clinics have been electrified. We will engage ESKOM to ensure that one block at Nyaku Secondary School switches on and that the Tlakale Primary School converts from a conventional to a prepaid electricity system as per school's request.

We are awaiting the **three** additional transformers so as to strengthen the capacity of the existing ones in order to make the **Street Lights** fully functional. The project (street light) entailed installation of **9.5km** street lights and was constructed at the cost of about **R2 million**.

Further to this, the **15 High Mast Lights** that have been erected at Pelangwe, Seokodibeng, Mohlaletse Community Halls, Fetakgomo Atok Thusong Service Centre, Ga-Oria/Radimmela T-Junction, Apel/Mapodi, Phashamakgalanoto, Mosotse, Ga-Selepe, Mmakopa, Mphanama, Ga-Matlala (x2) and Mohlaletse (x2) are expected to switch-on soon, in not later than **two** months.

### **A Synopsis on Health**

We are engaging the Department of Health at national level and other role players with a view of securing the **conversion of Nchabeleng Health Centre into a Hospital**. This will reduce distance and traveling costs by our people to Lebowakgomo (**68 km** from Ga-Nchabeleng Health Centre), Mecklenburg (**59 km**) and Jane Furse (**73 km**). The Jane Furse Hospital is speculated to be populated by people mostly from Fetakgomo.

Generally, about **05 fixed clinics are needed for Ward 09 (Malogeng), Ward 13 (Mooilyk), Ward 11 (Ledingwe and Seokodibeng) and Ward 07 (Ga-Matlala/Mashabela** to address the existing backlog.

It is recognized that access to **health** facilities is one of the critical population priorities.

### **A Synopsis on Housing**

Whereas there is a recorded material progress of **3184** RDP houses having been built in Fetakgomo since 2001, our task is unfinished because this progress co-exists with incomplete and poorly constructed RDP houses. We urge all those who are affected in this regard to report these anomalies to their respective ward councillors.

Only two wards, **06** and **07** will benefit from the RDP housing allocations in the 2011/12 financial year with **50** and **125** allocations respectively.

## A Synopsis on Road and Bridges

Progress in respect of the roads under construction in the 2009/10 financial year is as follows:



### Service Delivery Projects by Other Sectors

Implementing agency	Project	Village / Ward	Progress
RAL	Surfacing Apel to Mmabulela/Atok Road (06km)	Mmabulela, Atok, Pelangwe	Complete
SDM	Surfacing Forong/Pelangwe to Ga-Maesela Road	Pelangwe, Ga-Maisela	Complete
SDM	Surfacing Lerajane to Tswereng/Mohlaletse	Lerajane, Mohlaletse	Work in progress
SDM	Phlamanoge Bridge	Phahlamanoge	Complete – but substandard quality

The learners drivers' license function has been devolved to the Fetakgomo Municipality. We are now performing this function at Grade E. Traveling long distances inquest for these services is a thing of the past. In addition, the pedestrian walkways has been constructed and another one connecting the Health Centre is being constructed.

## A Synopsis on Refuse Removal

Our refuse removal project has reached **9000** households as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2011 through the Food For Waste Project. We intend to secure funds so as to sustain and expand this service to other households or areas. Malogeng Waste Disposal (Landfill site) was completed and operationalized.

However, challenges relate to lack of appropriate equipments for maintenance and lack of weighing bridge for people who want to transport waste on their own to the landfill site.

## **A Synopsis on Other Infrastructural Investment**

**Four (4) cemeteries**, Mphanama, Ga-Selepe, Shubushubung and Mokgotho cemeteries were fenced. **The Municipality plans to work towards ensuring that sanitary facilities in these cemeteries are set up as a further affirmation of human dignity.**

We reiterate our commitment to ensure that the Strydkraal Community Hall and Mohlaletse Thusong Service Centre will be set up as multi-year projects from 2011 July to June 2013.

It is a commendable report that the construction of the **Library** is complete and only awaiting equipments such as furniture, study material etc.

**Tourism Centre** is under construction and there is a steady progress in this regard.

From the above, it is quite evident that many changes have indeed happened - but much more needs to be done.

## **MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE**

In the present situation, our Municipality is pursuing Township Development on the Farm Hoeraroep. Already a Development Facilitation Act approval for the Fetakgomo Municipality has been granted for portion 2 of the Farm. We will work hard to ensure that the area earmarked for Township is fully serviced (i.e sewage, water, electricity etc). As part of this process, the **Fetakgomo Sports Complex** is being constructed to promote entertainment and recreational activities. Also to be done is **Apel Recreational Park**.

We believe that the establishment of **malls** within the Municipality will boost the local economy. We will work hard to ensure the investment of the private sector in Fetakgomo including the **mining sector** which is the key driver of our municipal economy. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, a few councillors as well as officials together with the Bokoni Platinum Mine were dispatched to

undertake a learning visit at the Phalaborwa Foundation, a development arm of Phalaborwa Mining Company. It is hoped that the undertaken visit will yield fruitful and meaningful results.

**Education**

The success of any nation is embedded in its youth, As a municipality we take pride in the cordial relations with the Apel Circuit and the academic objectives and professionalism they start up to. There are schools which performed far above, far excellence, and history so confirms the status. We congratulate them e.g. Dinakanyane School which obtained 100% matric pass rate by 2010 and Moloke Combined School 90, 48% matric pass rate by 2010. However the challenge remains poor performing schools and how do we improve their performance to at least the acceptable percentage.

**DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

From the above, the following can be deduced as key development priorities and objectives of the Municipality going into the next five years:

FTM’S Development Priorities and Objectives Over the Next Five Years (2011/12-2015/16):

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Development Objectives</b>
1.Access to basic services	To facilitate for basic services delivery and infrastructural development / investment
2.Education	To raise levels of the population
3.Health	To promote health status of the population
4.Rural development	To promote integrated human settlement and agrarian reform
	To ensure community safety & security
	To improve provision of Home Affairs Offices
	To strengthen cell phone reception & effective communication
5.Job Creation	To promote local economic development within Fetakgomo
6.Good Governance	To enhance good governance and public participation

These should bring to live our proposed, refined municipal Vision 2050, which is: **“A viable municipality in sustainable rural development”**.

The deliverables enumerated above and the vision set out proves that it is a **fallacy** that the performance of the DA-led municipalities exceeds the ANC-led municipalities.

Very recently, during this month, a Western Cape member of Parliament, Freddie Adams pointed out shocking practices inherent in the DA-led municipalities. In a number of court battles, the DA was found to be in breach of the Constitution and the principles embedded in our law. Here are a few examples:

- The Cape High Court found the Western Cape Provincial Government's interference in the Overberg District Municipality by Premier Zille **unconstitutional**;
- A school girl was kicked out of a Stellenbosch School because they did not like her photo on Facebook, and Zille's Education MEC agreed with that! When it looked bleak in the High Court, they quickly settled the matter;
- Zille fired 13 provincial officials of the Social Transformation Programme and the CCMA found that it was done **unlawfully** and **unconstitutionally**.

This is a strong indicator that the DA pays **lip service** to human rights. We should be careful of not permitting the repetition of our racist, brutal and repressive past.

While the above occur under the so-called the rule of DA, Fetakgomo which under **the rule of the ANC** is the Municipality in which human rights are embraced and taken seriously. We do so because we are great believers and subscribers of the **Freedom Charter**, one of the key visionary and human rights-based documents in the archives of our struggle and the country's history.

Those who pay **lip service** to human rights have been and will continue to be exposed by the Courts and vital institutions that have been established to protect the human rights and democracy such as:

- The Office of the Public Protector;
- The South African Human Rights Commission;
- The Office of the Auditor-General;
- The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural Religious and Linguistic Communities; and
- The Commission for Gender Equality.

In Fetakgomo we are leaving in a Municipality where people are active participants, active agents of change in municipal governance as required by **Section 152 of the Constitution**, read jointly with Chapter four of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (no.32 of 2000).

In this regard, we pay tribute to all those who lost their lives so that we can be where we are today, including those whose lives were sacrificed here at home, Sekhukhuneland, Sharpeville, Langa, Uppington, Matola, Cradock, Soweto, Boipatong, in exile and elsewhere.

I want to recall **Chief Albert Luthuli**, in his *Presidential Address to the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference* stating that: **“Freedom will surely come if everybody does his duty”**.

In the same vein, I want to say that prosperity will surely come if everybody does his duty – that is if everybody increases the threshold of his participation in community development, **if everybody votes and votes correctly**.

### **Elections**

Ever since 2000 the local municipalities became a reality through the first elections and ultimately the spheres of government. In at least a month and a few days, elections are to be held and a million question is were we able to accomplish a mission for which the fetakgomo electorate voted us for. As we approach the era: rational vision should lead and pave a way for a positive ground. The electorate should be held in high esteem all the time not only, because of power be possess. Let’s drive educative voter education on as a source of voter’s empowerment.

### **Census 2011**

The RSA has embarked on the programme to educate people about census 2011. We add everybody to participate in census 2011 by being counted and provide accurate demographic information as and when requested by enumerators. In the final analysis, key to service delivery remains how best do we come to realization of a better life for all.

**Vote in the local government elections on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

**“Together we can build better communities”**

**I thank you!**

