

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE HON. MANDLA NDLOVU
TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE
MKHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT
13 SEPTEMBER 2024

SALUTATIONS:

- **Sibingelela uSpeaker no Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature**
 - **uChief Whip we Provincial Legislature**
 - **Amalunga of the Provincial Legislature**
 - **Amalunga eNational Assembly abakhona ngaphakathi kwethu**
 - **Amalungu eExecutive Council**
 - **uExecutive Mayor waseGert Sibande District Municipality**
 - **uExecutive Mayor walapha ekhaya eMkhondo Municipality Kanye nabo bonke o-executive Mayors abakhona**
 - **Amakhansela wonke akhona abuya e District kanye nako Maspala**
 - **oNdabezitha bonke abakhona beholwa uKgosi Mokoena umongameli we Contralesa aphinde abe ngusihlalo wendlu yamakhosi eMpumalanga**
 - **all Senior government officials**
 - **umphakathi wonke waseMkhondo**
Sanibonani emkhondo
1. Sifike lapha eMkhondo ngo msombuluko, saqoqisana nemphakathi kufika manje. Nisiphethe kahle futhi siqoqisene kahle.

2. Sijabula kakhulu ukuba nani lapha eMkhondo. Sekuphele ishumi leminyaka sagcina ukuletha uhulumeni wenu kulendawo yaseMkhondo. Siyanibongela phela ngoba bonke omasipala banelungelo lokuthi sibavakashela.
3. Mina kimi ikhaya lami lesibili leli. uChief whip wethu wathi kufanele kube yikhaya lami lesibili, iconstituency office yami ikhona lapha emkhondo.
4. Early this year I crisscrossed different wards and listened to your concerns. Futhi bathe uma bengitshela ukuthi siza eMkhondo ngajabula ngoba kimi kusekhaya Lapha eMkhondo abantu baseMkhondo ngiyabathanda nabo bayangithanda.

The Context

5. It therefore gives me pleasure Hon Speaker to have been invited by our Legislature to be part of this public participation programme which has brought the law makers of this province to the people of Mkhondo Municipality.
6. Indeed, we have the people's parliament, that prioritizes and seeks active engagement with the public, and that is receptive and responsive to the needs of the people.
7. Public participation encourages meaningful input into the decision-making process and is premised on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process. We

listen to the call of our people when they say there is nothing about us without us.

8. It is against this constitutional imperative that we have gathered here this week to give both the meaning and substance to this legislative requirement.
9. I therefore have no doubt that the community of this municipality have had meaningful public participation with our legislatures.
10. Since the beginning of this week law makers and officials have been gathering information from a wide range of interest groups and pressure groups. listened to a various views and concerns since you have been provided with a platform for meaningful engagement.
11. Mphakathi waseMkhondo, sinizwile ukuthi nithini, nikhala ngani, siyenzeni, futhi ikuphi okusadingeka sikwenze.
12. For public participation to be successful and inclusive, it must meet all four requirements of informing the public, consulting with the public, involving the public and subsequently giving feedback to the public.
13. Sinizwile, kuyafuneka ukuthi sinitshela ukuthi lokhu nalokhu enikubekile sikwenzile noma cha.
14. My responsibility as the Premier and Head of the Executive is to give you feedback on all the issues that you have raised during this process.

15. Before I give feedback to the people of Mkhondo on the issues that were raised the last time we were here in 2012, allow me Hon Speaker to also report on what I have been doing since I arrived here on Monday.
16. Ngosuku lwami lokuqala ngoMsobuluko ngihlangane neNkosi BV Yende wase Mahlaphahlapha Traditional Council. Bengizobingelela ngizothi Bayede. UNdabezitha BV Yende ujabule kakhulu ukusibona wathi izinto zihamba kahle.
17. He told me that they are grateful for what the government is doing in his area, but the biggest issue is water shortages. His people are getting water at an interval of 5 weeks. Wakhala ngemigwaqo, wathi uqela ukuthi imigwaqo yenziwe igrading and gravelling, ukuze ihambeke futhi izimoto zingabhajwa udaka.
18. Abantwana benkosi bakhala ngamathuba emisebenzi, iSanitation abanye bakhala ngezindlu zodaka bathi abantu abakhelwe izindlu ezincono.
19. NgoLwesibili ngivakashela amakhosi amane, iNkosi MA Mahlobo waKwandwalaza Traditional Council, iNkosi MT Yende wase-Oganyaneni Traditional Council, iNkosi JA Tshabalala waseMadlangampisi Traditional Council Kanye neNkosi TB Mthethwa waseMadabukela Traditional Council.

20. Wonke lamakhosi bengizowabingelele ngithi boNdabezitha Bayede, ngizoba ngisebenzela lapha eMkhondo liviki lonke. Siphinde sivula amahhovisi amasha ababa uNdabezitha Mthethwa.
21. Bonke oNdabezitha bakhale ngento efanayo, amanzi, imigwaqo, iSanitation, izindlu, izikole kanye namathuba emisebenzi.
22. During the public hearings on Tuesday, here in the same venue that we are meeting today the people of Mkhondo Municipality raised a number of issues similar to those raised by aboNdabezitha, housing shortages, mud houses, water shortages, sewer spillages, the conditions of our health facilities, the state of our road infrastructure, lack of sports facilities, housing shortages and inadequate basic service delivery in general.
23. During the opening of the legislature few months ago, I promised the people of Mpumalanga that I will be meeting with all municipalities in the province to identify critical areas that need special attention and come up with a strategy on how to address these challenges.
24. On Wednesday this week I met with all municipalities under Gert Sibande District and yesterday I met with all municipalities under Nkangala District. Next week I will be meeting with all municipalities under Ehlanzeni District.
25. The challenges of poor roads and ageing water and sewer infrastructure cannot be underestimated. Every village and every

township has similar problems. The other problem that seems to be spreading like wildfire is crime at schools.

26. As part of our strategy to target basic services delivery within municipalities, we have directed all our municipalities including Mkhondo Municipality to set aside at least 75% of their municipal infrastructure grant's allocation to address water, sanitation and road infrastructure challenges.

27. However, water must get the first priority followed by sanitation and road infrastructure. Water is life, sanitation is dignity, and roads are access to home. Amanzi ayimpilo angeke uphile ngaphandle kwawo, isanitation iletha isithunzi kanti imigwaqo ikufaka ekhaya.

28. Government took a decision that all three spheres of government must work together through the District Development Model so that we stop working in Silos but develop one plan for Mkhondo Municipality and all other municipalities and that plan must be supported by all three spheres of government.

29. Lokhu, kusho ukuthi uMkhondo ubambisene neProvince, aphinde abambisene neNational Government, basebenze bonke, balethe intuthuko kubantu, bayekele ukusebenza behlukene.

Feedback on the issues raised in 2012 and how government responded

30. Let me give the feedback on what people asked for in 2012 and what we did to address their concerns.
31. People of Mkhondo asked for water and we drilled, equipped and electrified more than 20 boreholes and 15 032 households benefitted from this project.
32. We completed the construction of Bulk Water Supply Pipeline and Reticulation at Dr Pols and 642 households benefitted from this project.
33. You asked for an improvement in Sanitation, and we completed a Sanitation project that benefitted 833 households.
34. We completed the installation of flushing Toilets in rural villages benefitting 776 households, like I said earlier sanitation is dignity, we brought dignity to our people. Sibuyisa isithunzi sabantu bakithi.
35. You asked for better sports facilities, and we are happy to report that we refurbished Mandla Magudulela Stadium the very same one we are using today, and we refurbished Kempville Sports ground.
36. To alleviate challenges of waste treatment, we bought Specialized Waste Vehicles. Sathenga 2 yazo Kanye neExcavator.
37. Nakhala ngokuthi izikolo zigcwele abafundi basemaplazini abanandawo yokufundela, sakha ama boarding schools amabili eyesithathu nayo isizophela ungakapheli lonyaka.

38. Nakhala ngomgwaqo oya eKlipwal nawo sesiqedile ukuwulungisa.
39. Nakhala ngekliniki, nayo bekufuneka seyiphelile, kodwa si disturbe izinkinga zama business forum.
40. Asigcinanga lapho siphinde saletha enye intuthuko enkulo kusukela ngonyaka ka 2013 kuze kube namhlanje.

Progress on the completed MIG projects including the roads projects since 2013 to date

- a) Completed the Stormwater drainage at Ethandukukhanya (ward 5&13).
- b) Completed the 4 km of bus and taxi route in Driefontein (ward 1,2&18).
- c) Completed the upgrade of 4km gravel road to paving blocks in Amsterdam Ext 4 (ward 19).
- d) Completed the upgrade of 4 gravel road to paving blocks in Piet Retief (Ward 7&14).
- e) Completed the 3km main access road and two bridges in Sandbank (ward 8).
- f) Completed the upgrade of a 1km taxi rank access road at Mkhondo (ward 7).
- g) Completed the 4km rehabilitation of the bus and taxi Route at Phola Park eThandukukhanya (ward 16).
- h) Completed the 3km rehabilitation of the bus and taxi Route at Sbetha, eThandukukhanya (ward 13).

- i) Completed the construction of Driefontein to Iswepe and Hartebeesfontein Water Bulk Line, benefitted 1 630 households.
- j) Completed the construction of Water Bulk Line to Rustplaas, Maphepheni, Malayinini and Forest View, benefitted 4 955 households.
- k) Completed the Installation of High mast Lights, benefitted 1 014 households.
- l) Completed the Construction of MPCC- Amsterdam, benefitted 1 517 households.

Current Challenges and what brings these challenges

- 41. For us to appreciate where these challenges come from let me give you some background about your municipality.
- 42. In 2011, the population of Mkhondo Local Municipality was 171 982, with 37 433 households. Population increased to 255 411 and number of household to 58 504.
- 43. Between 2011 and 2022, the population of Mkhondo increased by 83 429, which translates to 3.8% annually. Youth population is 68.3%.

How is government responding to these challenges?

- 44. We have instructed all municipalities to set aside atleast 50% of the infrastructure grants to water.

Housing Projects that are being implemented

- 45. Sinizwile nikhala ngezindlu. Lohulumeni uyalalela, sizoqhubeka sakhe ezinye izindlu khona lapha, nakwezinye izindawo, sakhela abantu

abahluphekayo, thina abanye sizothola amasites anama services, sizakhele thina izindlu.

46. Between 2019 and 2024 our department of Human Settlements has delivered a total of 981 Houses in the following areas: Phola Park, Emangosuthu, Iswepe, Emlazi, Ezinkonjaneni , Nongena, Newplaas, Emahlabathini, Driefontein, Phoswa, Ezinkomeni, Sgudada, Thokozani, and Ritiefville.

47. The department has further serviced 1 489 Sites in Ritiefville, Amsterdam Extension 5 and Ethandukukhanya. The above interventions from the department were meant for the realization of housing opportunities for the benefit of the poor and the destitute residents of Mkhondo Local Municipality.

48. For the 2024/25 Financial year, the department is currently busy with the construction of 457 Houses and the servicing of 207 Sites on various areas and the completion of these programs is planned for the 30 March 2025.

Department of Public Works Roads and Transport Also Assisting

49. The provincial department of Public Works Roads and Transport is also assisting the municipality with re-gravelling of roads and patching potholes.

50. Some of the roads that the department has done include regravelling of roads D1006, D393,

51. Patching of potholes on P7/2, D2548, Kanye nokugunda utshani ku P130/1.

52. Other projects that your Municipality is planning to implement are;

- Design and Electrification of rural villages ward 15 and ward 17
- Design and Electrification of rural villages ward 9
- Upgrading from 18MVA-40MVA of Phillip Greyling Substation
- Upgrading from 2MVA-10MVA of Amsterdam Substation
- Electrification of rural villages 102 households Sqintini and Bazane.
- Rehabilitation of Bus and Taxi Route in ward 10 Emagadeni eThandakukhanya.
- Rehabilitation of Internal Street in ward 11 eThandakukanya
- Re-gravelling 3000m bus and taxi route in Driefontein ward 1)
- Re-gravelling of 2200m bus and taxi route in Driefontein ward 2.
- Refurbishment of Piet Retief WTW (Phase 1 & 2)
- Amsterdam/Sheepmoor Bulk Water Scheme
- Highmast lights: Ward 1 to 19: Retrofit 400w to 100W

Department of Agriculture

53. Abanye bakhala ngembewu ukuthi abayitholanga. Imbewu yathunyelwa njengayoyonke iminyaka. I will ask our department.

54. I Agrihub which was damaged by storm will receive priority, sizoyilungisa noma kanjani.

55. Sizothubeka nokunizisa ngama Food gardens. Sizozama ukubasiza laba abafuna ukubuyela esibayeni.
56. Distribution of animals is very limited and therefore only those that are interested in farming will benefit. This programme will be reviewed because some people bathatha lezizinkomo esibanika zona ukuthi babe ama farmers, bayolobola ngazo.

Health

57. Nizokhumbula ukuthi ngo 2010 umphakathi washisa iKliniki. We were advised by Zanu-PF that if people destroy, their own property, their own assets that assist them, we do not go back and build that facility again.
58. After ten years we have realized that this community of Mkhondo has matured, you are no longer destroying your own facilities even when you are angry. Working with the national government we are building a Community Health Centre that will open 24 hours and it will be completed and ready to function by mid next year i.e 2025
59. Sizwile nikhala ngemithi engatholakali, bakwethu some of these medicines sizithenga overseas and if there is a delay in getting them from overseas, we try to see if we can substitute them. The norms and standards require that we have more than 90 per cent of medicine available. We shall try by all means to increase to at least 95% or more.

Education and Crime in Schools

60. We have listened to your complaints about overcrowding in schools and the high rates of crime in your schools. I have discussed this matter with the MEC of Safety and the police have begun taking action by doing unannounced visits to schools.
61. We cannot allow a situation where our schools become crime spots. The culture of learning and teaching without any interference by drug lords and criminals must be restored.
62. We will be finishing the construction of the boarding school and by next year it will be opened and functioning. The issue of students who are not from the area of Mkhondo but are benefitting and attending in these boarding schools need to be investigated.
63. However, the culprits are your residents of Mkhondo. You give these people your addresses to apply as if they come from Mkhondo. You are responsible for this mayhem. We will do a thorough investigation and take action.
64. This month is a special month, we should celebrate our culture and heritage. We will encourage every citizen of this province to participate in Cultural activities that will be taking place throughout our province.
65. We will continue to confront challenges, deal with poverty, unemployment and inequality. Our Expanded Public Works Programme continue to be a flagship programme that helps our poor people to put

food on their tables. Our food parcels for the poorest of the poor must assist those who are destitute.

66. All our municipalities are encouraged to update their indigent registers, for qualifying people to receive relief on the payments rates and taxes, to receive free basic electricity and water.

67. BoNdabezitha, ngiyabonga ukuthi nikhona la, on this financial year we are building 3 offices of our traditional councils, beautiful offices, for Inkosi MT Yende, Inkosi MA Mahlobo and Inkosi JA Tshabalala.

68. Ngiyabona niya driva. We commit to appoint 287 izinduna. Thina asikhulumi, siya implementa.

69. Asina mona, asina nzondo, sizoyidumisa iMkhondo.

Siyabonga!