

**SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF
ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR S.W MDABE ON THE
OCCASION OF INAUGURATION OF COUNCIL, 15 JUNE 2011,
MACAMBINI SPORT GROUND**

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the National Assembly present today;

Members of the Provincial Legislature of KZN present today,

Your worships, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Speakers

Fellow Councilors,

Amakhosi esendlunkulu,

Abantwana Basendlunkulu,

Senior government officials,

Leaders of the Business community present,

Distinguished guests,

Comrades and friends,

Members of the mass media:

I am honoured to address this majestic gathering of elected representatives of our people to carry the solemn act of inauguration of the new Council after the fourth democratic local government elections.

We feel greatly privileged that so many of you could travel from all corners of our country, the province of KZN and iLembe District to lend importance and dignity to this solemn occasion.

I would like from the onset to congratulate the Speaker for being elected by the house unopposed as our presidium and the Deputy Mayor as well as members of the Executive Committee of Council.

I would also like to congratulate all Councilors who have been elected to represent various political parties represented in our Council.

The 2011 democratic local government elections have once more re-affirmed an increased electoral mandate of this titanic army of our people- the African National Congress.

We accept the renewed electoral mandate with humility and re-affirm our position that the overwhelming electoral mandate received by the ANC will be reciprocated by the acceleration of service delivery in line with key priorities outlined in the Medium Term Strategic Framework, “together doing more and better, A Framework to guide government’s programme in the electoral mandate period (2009-2014)” and our 2011 Local Government Election Manifesto, Together We Can Build Better Communities.

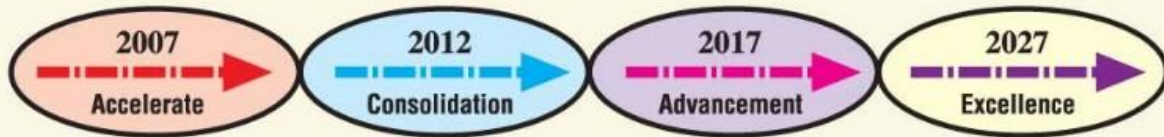
We have been elected into office on the basis of our track record of service delivery, financial prudence and the plan to make local government work for communities, Together We can Build Better Communities.

The African National Congress and its allies have always held a view that in its quest to reach the final objective which informs the policies, strategies and tactics over the decades, through its theory and practice, it has proven that it is the only vehicle which possesses the capacity to act as the leader of the people in their struggle to establish a truly non racial, non sexist and democratic society.

Mr. Speaker, every organization that wants to remain relevant in society need to have a vision mission to guide its operations. In 2006 we crafted a vision and a mission to guide our operations. We said:

VISION 2027: To be a World Class African Destination, with excellent services and quality of life for it's people

The iLembe District Municipality will achieve it's Vision by 2027 subscribing to the following:



MISSION STATEMENT: -

Service Delivery through Partnerships

Build Partnership for Sustainable Growth & Development
Improve Service Delivery through Creative Partnerships

Customer Care

Placing premium Value on our Customers to ensure Satisfaction

Leadership

Provide Innovative Leadership in the District
Fulfill Role of Facilitator, Enable, Mentor,
Building Capacity through the sharing of Services

Our People & Staff

Investing in our people as valuable Assets

PRINCIPLES:-

Batho Pele Principles
Service Delivery Charter Concept

VALUE SYSTEMS:-

Accountability
Sustainability
Effectiveness, Efficiency & Economical
Customer Care
Responsiveness
Transparency
Equity
Integrity

Accordingly, at our last Council meeting, we tabled a Five Year Review: Synthesis Report, which outline achievements that have been made in the last five years in relation to the backlogs that we inherited in 2006.

In many respect, the Five Year Review Report has confirmed that since 2006, the district and family of local municipalities have made substantial contributions to the reduction of service backlogs.

From 2006 to date 25,408 households representing 33% of the total households have been given access to clean and drinkable water as a basic level of services and 19,988 households representing 28% have been provided with basic level of sanitation.

Over and above this, there are projects that have been implemented and completed and others under construction that will ensure that all the people of iLembe will have access to clean and drinkable water by 2014 in line with national targets and Millennium Development Goals as set out by the United Nations General Assembly in 2004.

These include the Sundumbili/KwaDukuza Bulk Water Scheme that will provide bulk water to Mandeni, KwaDukuza and even eThekweni.

The Ngcebo KwaDukuza Bulk Water Scheme will serve the entire Maphumulo area up to KwaDukuza with clean and drinkable water supply.

IDM is partnering with Ndwedwe LM is to design and implement the Bulk infrastructure for Water and Sanitation that will cater for planned Ndwedwe town development.

IDM is also partnering with Umgeni Water for the design and construction of Sikoto Dam that will augment all the borehole supplied schemes of Ozwathini with bulk water.

However, numerous gaps still remain, resulting in large number of households without basic services such as houses, water, and sanitation.

Throughout the district, 98,000 still require housing, while 51,067 still require water, and 50,009 still require proper sanitation.

Mr. Speaker through the Five Year Review process and other studies that have been undertaken, it has been revealed that we require an approximate value of R1,78 billion over the next five years to completely eradicate these backlogs, not to mention continued investment into infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and public transport.

In other areas of infrastructure delivery for the next five years, for housing, we require capital funding approximately of R4 billion, for roads R3 billion and electricity R5 billion.

Given the challenges that we are faced with arising from our past and the development that is taking place within our own district, we will need to

work closely with other state owned entities, private sector and organs of civil society in achieving our strategic objectives.

The iLembe District is bordered by economic powerhouses to the north and south, namely Durban and Richards Bay, Africa's two great ports. In this context, functional economic linkages exist between eThekweni and uThungulu in terms of tourism, manufacturing, transport, commerce and labour. It boasts strategic location to KZN new investment opportunities of the King Shaka International Airport and Dube Trade Port.

The Ilembe District also plays host to pristine beaches and a relatively unspoilt natural environment, centrally located to the province's other major assets, i.e. Game Reserves, St. Lucia World Heritage Site, Berg, Battle Fields and Durban. This places this District within a two-hour drive of many of KZNs natural attractions and two World Heritage Sites.

ILembe District is known as a "Family of Municipalities" constituted by the 4 Local Municipalities of Mandeni, KwaDukuza, Ndwedwe and Maphumulo. The coastal municipalities of Kwadukuza and Mandeni have experienced rapid growth and will continue to be the major urbanising areas of the District. The more rural municipalities of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe will continue to play a crucial role in the food security sector for the Region as well as the Province. To ensure that as a family we continue to grow and compliment each others strategic spatial vision, the Districts Spatial Plan which was informed by the local municipalities spatial plans has identified key areas for investment. The two coastal municipalities will continue to be promoted as key tourism investment areas as well as areas for low to middle impact commercial and industrial development. There will also be

affordable housing opportunities in these areas to cater for the growing population.

The hinterland municipalities of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe, will continued to provide the agricultural space for both economic and social development. However, given the strategic location of Ndwedwe to the international airport and the titanium mining opportunities in Maphumulo there emerges further economic opportunities to capitalise upon. We look to both public and private sector to help us realise these opportunities.

In the tourism and up-market property development sectors, major development include the King Shaka Cultural Tourism and Heritage Trail, the Zimbali Golf and Leisure Estate extension, Blythedale Beach Coastal Resort, Brettonwood Estate development, Sugarland Resort development on the Tongaat River, Simbithi-Eco-Estate, Ballito Business Park, Nonoti Coastal Resort Development , Macambini Coastal Resort Development and Beverly Hills Estate extension.

In the agricultural sector of the economy, Enterprise iLembe has set up projects involving supporting community-base co-operatives to establish viable agricultural gardens, which produce vegetables such as cabbage, butternut, potatoes etc for both community needs and sale in the market.

Six sites have been identified in all four local municipalities namely; KwaMathonsi, Bulwer Farm, Siyanqoba, KwaHlongwa, Mwandle and Khelelani.

The long term strategies for the farms include linking the farms to an agri-processing facility for value adding product.

The agri-processing hubs involve the establishment of four hydroponic green houses in four local municipalities as well as a pack-house on each site.

With regards to other initiatives related to the agricultural sector of the economy, iLembe Enterprise has commenced with Vineyards, this project involves the growing of 12 hectares of vines in local areas in the district with a view of building a new wine industry on the north coast.

There are three vineyard sites that are situated in Ndwedwe, Maphumulo and Mandeni.

These sites were chosen to unlock economic activity in the hinterland of the district based on technical report of land conditions and climate.

Another critical project that is being pursued by Enterprise iLembe aimed at unlocking the potential of our district within the manufacturing sector is a Biodiesel project to be located at Isithebe Industrial Park in Mandeni.

With regards to natural resources, a research is being conducted in Maphumulo in respect of Mambulu that has been assumed to have titanium deposits.

An IDM development strategy has been developed which identifies several sites for Industrial Growth opportunities.

The establishment of the ilembe chamber of commerce, provides the institutional vehicle to attract the necessary business partners to ensure the continued growth of the above mentioned initiatives as well as public investment as announced by the President in His State of the nation address where he indicated 9 billion will be set aside for job fund in the next three years and additional 10 Billion from IDC for job-creating economic activities.

Accordingly, Enterprise iLembe will be directed to prepare and submit business plans to access these funding working in collaboration with iLembe chamber of commerce.

As the water services authority, we are playing our part in creating and enabling an environment by investing in infra-structure, which will make possible for businesses to invest in our District.

In this respect an undertaking is underway for the implementation of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme, which will not only address the issue of infrastructure but will also stimulate economic development and build investor confidence in our district.

The project is estimated to be implemented at a cost of 2.2 billion over a three year period.

Whilst we acknowledge the massive economic growth and development opportunities within our district, we are still faced with high levels of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

All the initiatives that we have under taken as government are to a large extent aimed at addressing the gap between the first and second economy.

One practical example of addressing this gap in moving forward is that each Local Municipalities and the District must establish 10 Corporatives for youth and women for economic benefit.

Mr. Speaker it is also important to note that The District is made up of 45 Traditional Authority areas where settlement is controlled by Traditional Authorities according to a traditional land tenure system. These TA areas cover approximately 63% of the total area where the State and the Ingonyama Trust own the majority of the land within Municipality of Maphumulo, Ndwedwe and coastal and inland reaches of Mandeni.

These TA areas are generally characterised by subsistence farming activities, harsh topographical conditions and moderate agricultural potential. Large areas are under-utilised with traditional settlement patterns and low densities which are not conducive to the provision of infrastructural services. Rural land use plans will assist in maintaining our rural character without compromising the quality of services to these areas. Rural land use planning will assist in the identification of rural nodes, which would have lay-out plans that would guide development of lands uses like housing, social services, like schools and clinics. In addition areas for grazing, cultivation and traditional ceremonies can equally be identified and protected to ensure that the agricultural viability of these areas remains.

Further, underutilized agricultural land can be released for production or other economic opportunities.

It should be noted that these rural land use plans do not undermine the ownership of the land but rather encourages all land use owners to assist the local municipalities in developing their respective land uses.

Mr. Speaker, the backbone of the above initiatives is dependent on the ability of us as a family to maintain our financial systems and to enhance our revenue to at least 80%.

Mr. Speaker, we have raised serious challenges facing our district with regards to economic development, poverty, unemployment and lack of skills.

Mr. Speaker, our district has a young population, which is exposed to various pressures and peer challenges.

In recognition of this and the lack of critical skills that are required by the economy and government, we have initiated a bursary and scholarship programme named after one of the outstanding servant of our people Mr. Nathi Mthembu.

In the current financial year, this bursary programme is supporting 25 students who are specializing in scarce skills like electrical engineering, science and technology, engineering etc.

In addition the following skills are required in the iLembe region

Financial, agricultural science, artisans and plumbers to name a few.

To this end we are looking to partner with academic institutions to consider establishing satellite offices in the District.

It is our sincerest hope that these young people will be able to play a meaningful role in society upon their graduation.

One of the major collapses of social fabric is the continuous of teenage pregnancy which in many instances is caused by people who are supposed to be fathers and grandfathers to these children.

It is our responsibility as members of the community to continuously build a caring society as envisaged in our constitution.

In this regard we should strengthen structures that have been created to protect the needs and interests of our children.

Mr. Speaker, one of the critical aspects that we need to address together with our social partners is the question of opportunistic diseases that continues to inflict our society. We need to urgently mobilise society against TB, Malaria and HIV and AIDS.

In this respect, we need to revitalize local AIDS Councils with a view of addressing all these opportunistic diseases in our district.

Crime prevention, drug abuse, is some of the challenges that we have to address head-on.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday we bided farewell to one of the outstanding patriot, Mama Sisulu who has played a critical role in bringing about a democratic change in our society.

I thank you for attention,