

**INAUGURATION SPEECH OF THE MAYOR, THE HONOURABLE COUNCILLOR  
ROSE PHUKUNTSI OF TSWELOPELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 AT  
HOOPSTAD**

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**Mr Speaker of Tswelopele Municipality,  
Heads of State Organs with us today,  
Distinguished Premier and Speaker of our Province,  
Provincial Chairperson of ANC, Mr Magashule  
Mayors and Councillors,  
Distinguished guests, friends and comrades.**

I stand here today on the second term of our developmental Local Government inaugurated as a mayor of Tswelopele Municipality. The last five years has seen foundation been laid to address the imbalances and cruel injustices that apartheid has created. I am proud to be elected as a leader of one of the municipalities that stood the test of time in ensuring that proper foundation is laid for better service delivery. I must first thank my organisation, the African National Congress for the trust and confidence it has shown and bestowed in me by electing me into such high office. We have seen mostly women occupying high office not only because they are women, but because they are able to lead.

Programme director, this day marks the beginning of greater things to come. As government we have mandate to ensure that bucket system is eradicated and all basic services are provided to all South Africans by the end of 2007. When the State President made this commitment in Parliament, it appeared far fetched and idealistic, however, with the passage of time, I have turn to realise that this goal is within reach, as long as we all understand that there are mountains that have to be climbed. The challenges ahead of us are indeed profound.

As a collective we can be able to achieve the goal articulated above. I am here standing before you as a humble servant of Tswelopele Local Municipality and I need your unqualified support to enable me realise the objective of the Freedom Charter and those that are contained in the supreme law of the land.

Programme Director, a lot has been said, in my view the next five years must be seen as five year of implementation. We have developed policies that should guide us. Our people are interested, not in talk shows but delivery of services. We need to ensure that we change their lives for the better and in this way we will realise the objective of making local government work better.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Tswelopele for showing their unqualified support in African National Congress led government. Despite political turbulences, that we experienced during the first of March local government elections, our people stood by us and through their vote offered us another chance to lead this Municipality. We thank you for that.

We need to capture this confidence by ensuring that the aspirations of our people are met. This objective can only be achieved if we ensure that every household receive free basic electricity, 6 kilolitres of water, new roads are constructed, sports facilities are built and other countless demands of proper service delivery are met.

Programme Director, it is my humble request to citizens of Tswelopele to rally their support behind the newly elected council and ensure that all its activities are a success. The youth should ensure that they develop programmes which are geared towards the scourge of HIV and Aids.

Unemployment rate in our municipality is very high. This as result affects economic growth. To this end and we commit ourselves to give necessary support to the private sector initiative in establishing Bio-fuel industry. If this endeavor is achieved we shall bear the fruits thereof. To demonstrate our commitment to this, we have made land available for the development of Ethanol plant and we shall always give and lend necessary support as and when required to do so.

Our communities have grown into multitudes and the demand for health services has also increased. Though this function of providing health services does not fall within the ambit of local government, we shall continue to engage all levels of government to ensure that health facilities are made available to our people.

Programme Director, there are many challenges facing us, and we would not be able to mention all. We shall however, endeavour to ensure that service delivery takes place in the next five years.

The next five years is as the President has correctly stated, "**The Age of Hope**". Let us make sure that we work together and achieve goals we have set for ourselves.

**Together we shall move forward**

I thank you.