



**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF UGU DISTRICT MAYOR CLLR MONDLI CHILIZA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AS UGU DISTRICT MAYOR ON
THE 29TH OF MARCH 2017 AT PORT SHEPSTONE CIVIC CENTRE**

Thank you Speaker

Our District Champion MEC Weziwe Thusi

Amakhosi present

Leadership of the ruling party led by Nobhala Mzandile Mkhwanazi

Leadership of all political parties present

Mayors and Deputy Mayors

Speakers

Members of the Executive Committee

Fellow Councillors

Municipal Managers

Senior Managers and all other officials

Business leadership

Civil society organizations

Ladies and gentleman of the media

Friends and compatriots

My wife MaNgcobo

Good day, Sanibonani!

Today we converge on these premises located on the ever-growing town at the coastline which is the name of our noble

municipality UGU to inaugurate the District Mayor. Ordinarily our municipality converges to pass draft budgets and draft IDP at this time so that municipality can go and present it to the public in order for government work to continue. Due to the unfortunate incident that left us all in shock at the end of last year, when we lost a highly dedicated, hardworking and fine Son of the Soil who had been our Mayor Cllr Tolomane Mnyayiza. At the time of his inauguration and the short time he spent in office he had set ball rolling. As the new Mayor, together with the Leadership I will continue where he left off by ensuring that we set and meet all the targets meant to relieve our people from the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Continuity finds us here today having to carry dreams of many people who wanted to see our people prosper. We continue with the dreams of Cde OR Tambo as National government declared this year as the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo. When declaring this year as the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo during the State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma said, and I quote, "It is the year of unity in action by all South Africans as we move South Africa forward, together.," close quote. Indeed, Cde OR Tambo and Cde Tolos were the people who believed a lot in unity in action. We will forever be indebted to them.

Madam Speaker, when we say that continuity finds us we mean that we remain with very serious tasks as Ugu District Municipality of continuously rolling out water and sanitation infrastructure to all our people. Our target is 100% coverage of clean drinking water in this current term. This will be achieved by ensuring that we couple it with programmes such as the war on leaks that seek to ensure that no drop goes to wastage. One might ask how we fit such big dreams of 100% water coverage in such a small capacity. We find inspiration from the words of the Twentieth Century poet W.H. Auden who said, and I quote,

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water," close quote. Indeed, all of us in the employ of Ugu District dealing are with water, we need to ensure that we find inspiration every day from the words of this poet. As Leaders in all our 84 wards let us make sure that we become Ambassadors of war on leaks in order to ensure that we begin saving water from wastage even before we save it in our own homes on the way we use it.

We are determined to move with speed to achieve higher rates of economic growth that would result in job creation and reduction of unemployment. Weighing heavily on our shoulders is the fact that there are thousands of people who still live in abject poverty.

We will continue with our turnaround strategy to refurbish and replace our water and sanitation infrastructure network and ensure that all residents within UGU have access to quality drinking water and decent sanitation. We will address environmental concerns and together with other spheres of government and the private sector, find solutions for pressing environmental issues in the district.

We will continue with programmes such as Operation Sheshisa, Sihamba Sonke and war on leaks that will have a dent in poverty alleviation and reduction of unemployment whilst ensuring that service delivery is improved. If our economic situations were allowing, indeed all the people of Ugu District would be having decent jobs. As we speak our young people are out there working hard on ensuring that our water infrastructure is working well so that we remain true to the words of the Poet W. H. Auden, that I mentioned earlier.

All of this will be done within the context of fiscal responsibility and according to the high standards of prudent financial management we have set ourselves. However, Madam Speaker,

I want to emphasise the point that our district is more than tarmac and pipes. It is also about socio-economic development and economic transformation. Our primary focus will remain firmly fixed on radical economic transformation tailored towards improving the quality of life of our people across the district. You should expect this administration to focus very strongly on introducing measures and programmes to address issues of economic exclusion and underdevelopment.

We will also continue to pay special attention to programmes that alleviate endemic poverty, address issues related to child-headed households, and people living with and affected by HIV and Aids.

The State of the Nation Address of this year spoke of the year of unity in action. We will continue to work closely with Traditional Leadership and all structures in our society that ensures that our government works better. We want to forge strong relations with the various sectors and through that partnership establish fora such as Business forum, Traditional Leaders forum, Pastors Forum, Disability Forums, Senior Citizens Forum and all structures that will ensure that our government is fully inclusive. Proper functioning of these fora at Local municipalities level will assist government to speed up service delivery, so coordination of these fora must be one of our priorities.

Speaker I wish to invite the business leadership especially the private sector to invest in our district. The government has important programmes like on ocean economy, agricultural projects etc.

There are many professionally qualified people within our district who have a very important role to play in empowering our youth in terms of skills development to grow economy and getting youth employed or being entrepreneurs.

In the state of the Province address, the Premier T W Mchunu said and I caught, "we need to ensure that the call for radical economic transformation does not only remain a slogan, but that it should find practical expression in our government and private sector programmes." I wish to reiterate the call made by the Premier that radical economic transformation must be incorporated in our district programmes.

Somlomo, asifuni ukuthi sizithole sihamba sodwa sishiya abantu esibaholayo ngemuva. Njengoba nenhlangothi ebusayo ihlale isho ukuthi thina siyizithunywa ngokuthunywa imiphakathi ukuthi senze izimpilo zabantu bakithi zibe ngcono.

Yingakho Ngqongqoshe ngizothanda ukuthi siqinise kakhulu ubudlelwa phakathi kweHhovisi likaMeya Kanye nabasebenzi ngokusebenzisana kahle neziNyunyana zabasebenzi. Siyazazi izinkinga abasebenzi ababhekene nazo, sizokhubeka nezingxoxo nabasebenzi ezaqalwa uMeya uMnyayiza ukuze sithole ikhambi eliyosiza uMaspala Kanye nabasebenzi bethu. Sizohlala njalo sinesikhathi sokulalela loko esibona ukuthi izinyunyana zifuna ukuthi kulungiswe ukuze sizithole siqhubekela phambili singuHulumeni wesiFunda soGu. Impela baningi asebesithathile lesisifungo sokuba nguMeya wesiFunda besithatha benikeza ithemba imiphakathi ukuthi konke kuzolunga. Nami ngiyazibophezela ngokubuka izinto esezenzekile ukuthi loko okwakhulunywa abafika ngaphambili kwami kwenzeka. Engizokwenza ukuqhubezela phambili ukuthi ithemba lingapheli kubantu.

When we speak of giving hope we give hope knowing well that in the 23 years of our democracy we still have many of our people who still go to sleep with empty stomachs. Our confidence booster in this case is that many who were going on empty stomachs when speeches were made before their number keeps dropping. We will continue to drop this number. The

reason why things happen the way they happen is because when a number has dropped we want to make sure that it is a permanent drop and we move to drop other numbers. I always make a comparison of a snail and a frog. A frog jumps all over the show at high speed leaving no mark that it has passed through however a snail moves very slowly leaving clear marking that it has went pass an area. That is the idea that we move forward with.

MEC, in an ideal world everybody would be having decent jobs. In the real world, many of our people have never been employed, our people have been retrenched, our people are uncertain of their current jobs whilst others have been given their last date of employment in the immediate future. All the pessimism that we see we find inspiration in the National Development Plan that gives us serious duty to ensure that we confront all these uncertainties. The government's 9-point plan seeks to given hope to our people that all is not doom and gloom. This plan sends us back to our Local Economic Plans to say that what is it that we have in our localities that we can use to ensure that we inspire local economic growth especially to our youth and businesses owned by women and disabled people.

Our LED will ensure that it empowers cooperatives and SMMEs so that we can experience this radical economic transformation. Driven by the 9-point plan we will look closely to Ocean Economy, Mining and Agriculture.

Last year, we were visited by Minister of Mineral Resources Mr Mosebenzi Zwane and he gave clear directives on how sand mining can become an economic hub of our municipalities.

Also, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Bheki Cele visited our district and met with fishers and addressed them on how they can grow their small hand to mouth fishing into big vessel fishing. Municipalities on the coastal strip such as

uMdoni, Umzumbe and Ray Nkonyeni need to work closely with their communities in order to ensure that Ocean Economy is the reality of all of us and begin to benefit our communities. All local municipalities have agricultural projects that need to be nurtured to give hope to our communities. All these sectors need to be strengthened.

We remain inspired by the work of our youth offices. We want to see all local municipalities with Youth Managers, who will assist us in ensuring that the programme of “set asides” on the youth goes directly to the youth. Streamlining these set asides will go a long way in ensuring that our youth is relieved from idle and is on the driving seat of relieving themselves from shackles of drugs, poverty and unemployment.

The issue of land restitution and reform cannot be an issue of lip service but it must be realised. The District Municipality will continue coordinating this mammoth task. This requires a very strong Intergovernmental Relations Government structure. This structure needs to be as lively as possible ensuring that all government sectors are tapped to ensure all gaps that delay any form of service delivery are closed.

I want to invite Amakhosi, especially those who are participating in various Municipal Councils as per section 81 of Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1998, to help the Municipalities with land for construction of infrastructural projects so that communities would receive services.

It remains very pivotal that all of us as family of Ugu District Municipalities maintain clean audits coupled with rapid service delivery. We need to learn from each other on how to achieve these milestones. Back to Basics remains our point of reference as we continue with this government programmes.

We are certain as this collective that our efforts and endeavours in pursuing the outlined programme of action will position us as this collective to respond to the needs of our people.

We invite all our stakeholders including all political parties, NGOs, business, youth, community organisations, the clergy and many others to continue working with us as we continue to move our district forward. We have come this far together and we can get even further if we continue working together for the betterment of the future of Ugu District.

I am confident that we will be up to this task and that we will not disappoint the trust placed in us by the people of our district. The time has come for Councillors and each and every employee of Ugu District to roll up their sleeves and dedicate themselves to the task at hand.

Speaker as I conclude, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the late mayor's family, the ANC, colleagues, and all who knew the late Cllr Mnyayiza. This was a very humble giant of our liberation struggle, who put the interests of ordinary citizens ahead of his own. The late Cllr Mnyayiza was a great servant of the people whose name will forever be engraved in the walls of history for the contribution

he has made to the district and the country. Cllr Mnyayiza believed in the founding principles of the ANC which direct all of us to put our people first at all times.

Let me also convey this council's condolences to the family of the late Cllr Dewet Cele who was laid to rest last weekend whilst being a member of this council.

Indeed, in the past couple of months, our district has been robbed of dedicated and loyal leaders such as Cllr Thembinkosi Commandor Zoleka who was a councillor at Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.

May all their souls rest in peace.

I would like to thank leadership of my political organisation inqola emasondosondo uKhongolose, the African National Congress that was once led by Oliver Reginald Tambo also that was once led by Cde Tolomane Mnyayiza for entrusting me with the duty and responsibility of being the District Mayor.

I thank you.