

“IT IS NOT FIVE YEARS OF PATRONAGE”-SPEAKER

MOKOPANE: The Mogalakwena Local Municipality’s Inaugural Council has again entrusted Cllr Pheladi Olifant with the responsibility as the Chairperson of the 2021-2026 Council after she was elected as the Speaker, Cllr Ngoako Thulane Taueatsoala was elected as the Mayor, while Cllr Staff Tsebe was elected as the Chief Whip.

In her speech, Speaker Pheladi Olifant said, “I accept the responsibility of being as speaker of the Council fully aware that from today I cease to be partisan and most importantly, to ensure that I lead Council that will our pre-occupation is nothing but to make law or take decisions that are about the delivery of basic services to all our people in all the 32 wards of this municipality, regardless of which political party or the ward councillor belongs to.”

“Our people have been very patient with us, it is time to do exactly what they voted us to do. I am delighted that the council is represented by young people and I will work with a crop of young and energetic leaders who will be obsessed with delivery of services to our people,” continued Olifant.

Olifant indicated that she has no doubt that the longest serving president of the Liberation Congress, Oliver Reginald Tambo must be smiling down on them because what people see, it is exactly what he long advocated for.

It was OR Tambo who said, “The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future”

“The future is here, the future is now, the future is decent basic services to our people. The future is a united Mogalakwena Municipal Council that will be obsessed with the livelihood of its people who elected them to power. The future is a violence-free Mogalakwena where our people will sleep in peace even when they have different views,” said Olifant

“The people of Mogalakwena have delivered what they believe will be a vehicle to move them forward with the provision of basic services. The outcome of 2021 Local Government Elections reflect exactly what the people who voted us to serve expect from us,” added Olifant.

“This Council must make history by working tirelessly for the benefit of its own people. Positions come and go and we are honoured to have been afforded this opportunity today. Let us make a mark by being the first council to produce clean audits for the duration of our term,” said Olifant.

“For the longest time, this municipality became synonymous with protests and infightings. We are here to marshal peace and tolerance; we are here to put the people of Mogalakwena first.

Our political differences and party issues cannot be above what people voted us to do,” said Olifant.

“We are not here to flex our muscles nor to nurse egos but to pull together and ensure that we better the lives of our people. We are human beings, we will have differences and preferences but we must find a way to resolve them and rally behind the course of our existence, service delivery to our people. We cannot afford to take a destructive path when our people need us most,” continued Olifant.

“We must speak in one voice and reject any form of mobilization that is aimed at derailing us from the promises we made to our people during campaigns. Let’s choose a better sustainable path that will benefit all of us and change the lives of our people for the better,” emphasised Olifant.

“The time is now, we have a mandate to deliver without delay or excuses. Our people have given us a term of five years to serve and service them. It is not five years of patronage. It is not five years of fighting political opponents. It is not five years of enriching ourselves. But, let it be five years of excellent service delivery to our people,” said Olifant.

“We have criss-crossed the villages and townships of our area asking for votes and pleaded with our people to give us a chance to lead them once again. We must use the same energy when we attend to their complaints. The IDP plan of this municipality must align to the needs of our people, not our pockets,” said Olifant.

“We have this one term, let it be about people. Let us build an institution that will be a shining delivery vehicle and exemplary to others. The time is now, the hour has arrived, and responsibility has been bestowed upon us. Let us roll our sleeves and serve with pride,” said Olifant.

The ANC has 42 seats, 29 Ward Cllrs, 13 PR Cllrs, EFF has only one Ward and 13 PR Cllr’s, DA has only two Wards while others parties have one PR Cllrs.

The Inaugural Council was graced by MEC for Transport and Community Safety Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, Member of Legislature Simon Mathe, ANC Regional Secretary Jacob Moabelo, MLM former Mayor's Bob Alderman Mmola, Andrina Matsemela and other dignitaries.