

Closing Remarks by Acting Premier Mr VR Shongwe at the Taking Legislature to The People Campaign in Nkomazi held at KwaMhlushwa Stadium

1. Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Members of the Executive Council

Our Host Executive Mayor of Nkomazi, other Mayors and Councillors present here today

Ubukhosi obukhona lapha phakathi kwethu

The Director General of the Province, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize,

HODs and Municipal Managers

Representatives from various organisations

Our Special Guests – the people of Nkomazi Municipality

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani

Good Morning

2. Madam Speaker Sixty years ago, in Kliptown

Soweto thousands of South Africans from all walks of life gathered to prophesise about a South Africa that they would one day like to see and live in. A democratic South Africa based on

the will of all the people, black and white together as equals with all their birth rights secured without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief. A state whose credibility can only be sustained through participative democracy where people can gather in one place, just like what our forefathers did hundreds if not thousands of years ago, discuss issues of critical importance to them, take decisions and go and implement them.

3. Taking Legislature to the People is what Inkosi uSobhuza, Inkosi uCetshwayo and Inkosi uSoshangane did. It is what our traditional leaders are still continuing to do today.

4. Amakhosi ayebiza abantu kuhlalwe ngaphansi kwesihlahla kukhulunywe izindaba ezithinta yonke imiphakathi, izindaba zentuthuko, ukulinywa kwamasimu, isikhathi sokuvuna, namuhla nje sithi Masibuyele Emasini, ukufuywa kwezinkomo nokwelashwa kwazo. Namhla nje sithi Masibuyele esibayeni, ukwembiwa kwemithombo yamanzi ahlanzekile okuphuza nokulungisa ubudlelwano nomakhelwano. Nanamhlanje uma singabheka yilokho okusihlangise lapha. Undunankulu wesifunda uMhlonishwa U DD Mabuza uthe nginazise ukuthi usishayela ihlombe lesisinyathelo sakho Somlomo wephalamende lethu mama Shongwe

kanye nabo bonke ozakwethu bawo wonke amaqembu asephalamende.

5. The past **four** days have been a very busy period indeed. Members of the Legislature have been to various projects to satisfy themselves as to whether the municipality of Nkomazi and all relevant provincial **departments** are doing what they are expected to be doing. What was more important to us as government was to listen to our people expressing both their joy and pleasure for the services that have been delivered to them but also their displeasure and anger for services that are not reaching them. We have listened attentively and carefully and we have noted all your concerns. Sinizwile **ngoba** sinezindlebe.
6. Whilst these issues varied in nature and content, they represent what one can call basic service delivery challenges. Abantu sibezwile bekhala ngokuthi kunezindawo ezingakawatholi amanzi, nemigwaqo efuna ukulungiswa kanye nabantwana abahamba amabanga amade uma beya ezikolweni. Abanye bakhale ngokubiyelwa kwamathuna, nokubiyelwa kwezikolo kodwa izikhalo eziningi nezinkulu yilezo ebezithinta uMnyango wezindaba zasekhaya (Home Affairs). Siyabonga futhi siyajabula ukuthi lomnyango nawo ubukhona lapha ukuzoziphendulela.

7. Sikhulumile nomnumzane Nkosi wakwa Home Affairs ukuthi akebazame ukuthi babe nama workshops bafundise abanu bakithi ukuthi onjani umuntu onikezwa imvume yokungena ahlale kulelizwe, yini efunekayo ukuze abantwana abazalwa ngabantu bokufika bangaphandle bathole izitifiketi zokuzalwa (birth certificates) nanokuthi uma ke uvela ngaphandle kuthatha isikhathi esingakanani ngaphambi kokuthi ube yisakhamizi salelizwe ngokugcwele.

8. Lokhu kuzobasiza abantu bakithi ukuze bangaboni sengathi abantu bokufika bayahlukunyezwa kanti kulandelwa imithetho yezwe (National Laws) njengoba nakuwo wonke amazwe nawo lawa angomakhelwane bethu nakhona kunemithetho yakhona ethinta abantu bokufika.

9. As government we have seen a lot of improvement in the areas of service delivery in this municipality and we have no doubt that a lot more is yet to come. This is one of the best performing municipalities in the province and we are proud of their achievements. However we would like to urge them to work even harder towards the achievement of goals of the National Development Plan and the realization of the principles of the Freedom Charter.

10. Madam Speaker, I have never seen so many water projects in one municipality. Perhaps the only other municipality that has such a number of projects completed, others under construction while some are yet to begin is Bushbuckridge. I counted more than fifty water projects in this area of Nkomazi.

11. Labo ababanga umsindo bethi akuna service delivery kulendawo nanku umqulu wawo wonke amaprojects enziwa yilomasipala ukuze izimpilo zabantu zibencono. Zinkulungwane zabantu asebehlomulile ngalemisebenzi yalomasipala waseNkomazi. Uma uwufuna lomqulu hamba kwamasipala bazokunika owakho, owami lona ngihamba nawo esikhwameni uma umuntu engibuza ngomasipala waseNkomazi ngikhipha wona ngithi kuye uthini NANTI IQINISO ESANDLENI.

12. Abantu bakithi abakwazi ukuthi kuye kwadingeka ukuthi amanye amaprojects afana nemigwaqo athi ukuncipha saqinisa isandla kakhulu ekuletheleni abantu amanzi ngoba ayimpilo. Ungaphila ngaphandle komgwaqo kodwa ngeke waphila ngaphandle kwamanzi.

13. Fanele singakhohlwa ukuthi lona ngumasipala obhekene nezinkinga ezinkulu ngenxa yokuthi

wakhelene namazwe amabili angomakhelwane bethu nawo anezinkinga zawo ezinkulu zokwesweleka kwemisebenzi kanye nobubha nokuphuya (indlala). UMeya uke wasitshela ukuthi cishe babalelwa ngaphezulu kwamakhulu ambalwa abantu ngonyaka abafike bakhe bahlale kulendawo bevela emazweni angaphandle. Lokhu kusho ukuthi unyaka nonyaka lomasipala uba nabantu abasha okufanele bathole amanzi, ugesi nezindlu zangasese. Kanti nabantu bakhona lapha endaweni banezingane zabo nazo ezifuna ukunakekelwa njengoba kuyizakhamizi okufanele zithole amalungelo azo kuqala.

14. Lolu ludaba uNdunakankulu uzoluthathela ezandleni akhulume neminyango kahulumeni omkhulu ukuze nawo kube nesandla osifakayo ngoba inkinga ukuthi izimali ezivela kuhulumeni omkhulu (Equitable Funds) zilethwa kubhekwe izibalo zabantu ezisemthethweni (Official Census figures) kungabhekwa ukuthi baningi abantu abakhona abahlala lapha kodwa abangabhalisiwe ngoba bengenamapasi.

15. Lokhu kwenza ibencane imali etholwa yi province kanye nomasipala ofana nalona. Mangisho nje ukuthi inkinga ebhekene ne Europe

16. njengamanje yabantu bokufika (immigrants) inkinga thina lapha eMzansi okukade saqala ukubhekana nayo umahluko nje ukuthi thina siyakwazi ukuhlupheka futhi siyakwazi ukuhlalisana nabanye abantu. Indlela abakhala ngayo bona njengamanje yenza umangale ukuthi ukuba babehlala ngapha e-Afrika ngabe bakuphi manje.

17. Municipalities are also facing difficult times given the state of our economy. More and more people are unemployed some who were employed in the mining sector are also losing their jobs. All these people end up coming back home with little or no other experience. We have decided to engage the mines with the view of asking them to contribute in the re-skilling of retrenched miners so that they can start their own businesses and or cooperatives. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism **has embarked on the Provincial Industrial Strategy**. Part of this strategy is to revive the townships and rural village economy.

18. Sihlele ukuthi lendawo yezimboni ezincane esizozakha bese kuthi kulezozindawo lapho ezazivele zikhona sizilungise kabusha, sizoziqashisela abantu bakithi ngemali ephansi kakhulu ukuze bakwazi ukuziqalela amabhizinisi abo amancane bakwazi ukuziphilisa baqashe

nabo abanye abantu ukhule udlondlobale umnotho. Izazi kwezomnotho ziyasitshela ukuthi amabhizinisi okuyiwona avula amathuba emisebenzi ngamancane hhayi amakhulu. Ziphinde zisitshela futhi kuhle sonke sibophe amabhande siwaqinise ngoba umnotho usesimweni esingagculisi.

19. Siphezu komkhankaso wokuqeqesha abantu abasha ngoba sibonile ukuthi noma amathuba emisebenzi angavuleka uma benganawo amakhona adingekayo akulula ukuthi bayithole lemisebenzi. Kodwa sizophinde sibaqeqeshe ngendlela yokuthi noma bengawutholanga umsebenzi bakwazi ukuziqasha bona baqale awabo amabhizimisi.

20. Somlomo lena yindawo enothe kakhulu kwezolimo. Uhulumeni ebambisene nomasipala uzokwenza konke okusemandleni ukuthi siqinise isandla kwezolimo kuthi nezigulumba (ogandaganda)ebezingasebenzi zihambe ziyolungiswa ukuze zisebenzele imiphakathi yakithi. Sicela ukuthi abantu bakithi bajwayele ukukhuthala bazenzele balime batshale ningangeni ezitolo niyothenga I spinach namazambane namaklabishi kodwa umhlaba ube umuhle unokudla okungaka. Sizibonile izivande kwezinye izindawo khona lapha sajabula kakhulu uma sibona abantu bezitshalela..

21. Sithi-ke njengoba uNdunankulu ebeseshilo ozakwethu kweminye iminyango ikakhulukazi owezempilo nezemfundo bazothenga lamaklabishi nenyama nesipinashi nokunye kubalimi abancane bathumele ezibhedlela nasezikoleni kuma Feeding schemes ukuze abantu bakithi bathole umdlandla. Lokhu yinto uNdunankulu uMabuza aseyikhulume izikhathi eziningi ukuthi fanele yenzeke. Asethembe izokwenzeka. Sinamathuba amaningi okuthumela inyama ikakhulukazi inyama yengulube neyenkomo nezitshalo emazweni angomakhelwane njengeMozambique kanye nelaseSwazini.

22. Whilst the number of matric students who pass matric in this region continue to improve with most schools registering between 70 and 100 per cent pass rate with the exception of the very few, we think time has now come to focus on the quality side of these results. We need to increase the number of those who get university entrance to more than 50 per cent now gunning for 80 per cent in the future. Our government has bursary schemes for students who pass Maths Science and English with good results. We also send students overseas to do medicine, engineering and other high tech degrees.

23. I was very disappointed during question time when none of you asked about the bursary schemes for your children. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Honourable Premier and the executive council and Mpumalanga people at large to wish our 2015 matric students well in their forth coming exams.

24. Next year we will be holding local government elections and we are very proud to be a democratic society where people have a right to vote for anyone or any party they think will represent them better in their municipalities. We are however appealing to you all not to use this period by spreading lies and innuendos about other people just because you want to be nominated or elected. Abantu baqambe amanga aluhlaza cwe ngabanye abantu ngoba befuna ukukhethwa nokuthandwa abavoti.

25. We are also appealing to our communities to engage their local councillors should they have grievances or concerns. This is one municipality under the leadership of Mama Khoza that is accessible and they have an open door policy. If you have a complaint please talk to them. We have launched Operation Vuka Sisebente which will involve all community stakeholders in resolving community issues. It has a War Room in each and every ward. Hambani niye lapho

kuma Wards niyozwa ukuthi ningaba yingxenye njani nalomkhankaso ka Operation Vuka Sisebente.

26. Ngiyajabula ukusho ukuthi uma ubheka lomkhandlu waseNkomazi ngaphansi kuka Executive Mayor Khoza namakhansela akhe ezindabeni ezifana nokulethwa kwezinsiza ezifana namanzi, nogesi ebambisene noMhlonishwa uMtshweni izindlu ngaphansi nokuhlaliswa kwabantu ebambisene noMhlonishwa uSiwela, imigwaqo nemisebenzi yemiphakathi ebambisene noMhlonishwa uNhlengethwa ukunakekelwa kogogo nomkhulu nabantwana ebambisene noMhlonishwa uMtshweni ezemfundo ebambisene noMhlonishwa uMhaule, ezomnotho nokuthuthukiswa ebambisene noMhlonishwa uKholwane, ezolimo nemihlaba ebambisene noMhlonishwa uGamede, ezamasiko kanye nemidlalo ebambisene noMhlonishwa Mahlangu Mabena ezempilo ebambisene nomhlonishwa uMashego Kanye nezokuvikelwa kwemiphakathi nezokuphepha ebambisene nami ohloniphekile uShongwe kuningi kakhuku lomkhandlu ozokwenzele abantu nasozoqhubeka ukwenzele abantu. Sibonga kakhulu umkhandlu wendawo iDistrict Council yaseHlanzeni ngokubambisana nalomkhandlu waseNkomazi nokusiza lapho kudingeka khona ukuthi ufake isandla.

Impumelelo yalomkhandlu igxile kakhulu ekubambisaneni kwethu sonke. Simbonge uExecutive Mayor umama Letta Shongwe

Conclusion

26. Let me also take this opportunity once more, to thank the Legislature for taking its activities to the people on the ground. By bringing the legislature to the people Madam Speaker, you have fulfilled one of the main tenants of our democracy that of public participation. May I also extend my appreciation to the people of Nkomazi who have come in big numbers to be part of this august occasion and to have personal experience of how issues that directly affect their daily lives are being dealt with.

Ngiyanibonga nonke nina beKunene, Shongwe!!!!

