



100

Days Report in Office

2023 EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S
BUSINESS BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE



Cllr. L.M Mabuza
Executive Mayor

EMALAHLENI CIVIC CENTRE BANQUET HALL

31 OCT | 07:30 AM

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR LEAH MABUZA TABLES
HER 100DAY'S MILESTONES ON THE OCCASION OF THE
BUSINESS BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE
EMALAHLENI CIVC CENTRE, BANQUET HALL
31 October 2023**

- Honorable Speaker of Council, Cllr Mduduzi Nkosi
- Chief Whip of the majority party, Cllr Pertunia Maseko
- MPAC Chairperson, Cllr Cecilia Maraba
- Members of the Mayoral Committee
- All Councilors present in our midst
- Leadership of the ruling party and Alliance Structures
- Leadership of the official opposition and other political parties represented in council
- Representatives of organized Labour
- Municipal Accounting Officer, Mr. Sizwe Mayisela and your able team of technocrats
- Chairperson of the Audit and Performance Committee, Mme Modau
- Chairperson of the Risk Committee, Mr. Trevor Botlman
- Our Esteemed guests, the captains of industry
- Members of the Media

- Comrades and friends
- Ladies and gentleman

Good morning, Sanibonani, dumelang, Goie More!

Fellow residents, lets join the 67 millions of South Africans in congratulating Amabhokobhoko! For being crowned the New World Rugby Champions 2023 for the record 4th time.

I also thank the residents of eMalahleni for rallying behind the 2023 Idols finalist from eMalahleni, Thabo Ndlovu.

Puma Stadium was buzzing, I have not seen this kind of unity of eMalahleni residents for a long time. The Booke has done it, Thabo Ndlovu will do it to make eMalahleni proud when he is crowned the 2023 Idols Winner this coming Saturday, bring it home boy.

Let's give both Amabhokobho and Thabo Ndlovu a standing ovation, I thank you, you may be seated.

1. This being **“The year of Decisive Action to Advance the People Interests”** and electoral mandate to **Building Better Communities together”**
2. I once again rise with great sense of appreciation, honor and humility, humbled by the gesture of trust bestowed in me by the Ruling Party (my Political Home) but equally thank the confirmation and processing of my deployment by our esteemed council.
3. Accordingly, on the 27th of June 2023 I re-affirmed the pledge I have signed with the President, His Excellency

Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa to serve the people of Emalahleni with Honesty and Integrity.

4. As the leadership collective we have committed to deliver basic services, promptly and consistently.
5. To form and sustain working partnerships with all sectors of the society in rebuilding safer and healthier communities, stimulate Local Economic Development as a game changer in our fight against the triple challenges of **Unemployment, Poverty, and Socio-Economic inequalities**.
6. Importantly, to be available for our people to listen and communicate whenever there are technical problems leading to water and electricity outages including the expected time of restoring the services
7. As a Public Representative, I have made a pledge to remain accountable and to spare no effort in routing out corruption and all forms of nepotism and malfeasance by ensuring that **Good Governance** remains one of the apex priorities.
8. Hon. Speaker, the pledge to do more and better within a leadership collective was the center nerve of my acceptance speech dated 27 June 2023.
9. By law, I had to appoint able men and women in the Mayoral Committee sharing a common vision to fulfil **the social contract** we have signed with our communities that of putting building blocks **to progressively get closer to our historic vision of a “Better Life for All”**
10. We are of course mindful of the slow pace in correcting service delivery deficiencies but together we can join hands

to accelerate the **Pace** and **Intensity** of ensuring reliable supply of Water and Electricity, improve our turnaround time in attending to Sewer Spillages, Pot-Holes, Electricity and Water Outages, and this very commitment was part of the key performance areas in my acceptance speech.

11. Central to it, the acceptance acknowledged that the ruling party has declared this year, as a year of **decisive action** to **defend**, advance and **deepen** our hard-won constitutional democracy, and we dare not fail our communities
12. Notwithstanding the solid foundation and good work done by my predecessors, and as I took over the baton from them, I acknowledge their contributions and commitment to accelerate service delivery.
13. The stubborn binding constraints outlined in the 2023 Provincial Socio-Economic Review Report and the latest stats South Africa report confirms that, despite what has been achieved to change the lives of our people, there are still many more hills to climb.
14. With more than **40** informal settlements the Emalaheni population has been growing exponentially at 3,5% p/a and at some point stats SA projected it to be at 700 000 by 2027.
15. Whilst we accept that stats SA is the Custodian of the official stats, many local analysts including myself believe that Emalaheni population is understated by 2022 census report saying it is less than 450 000 because it is even less than the 2016 community survey which was at the time 455 000.

16. The negative impact of our population which is growing faster than the local economy is being aggravated by the aging infrastructure. Our infrastructure is unable to cope with the rate of population migration into our municipality.
17. Using a strict definition, the youth unemployment is staggering at 41%
18. Between 2020 and 2021, 30 000 jobs were lost due to the impact of Covid -19, and as a municipality, we have not responded very well in terms of adopting and implementing a resilient Local Economic Recovery Plan.
19. Together with you as the business community how are we responding to the geopolitical geometry with huge negative impact on our trade balance with international markets remaining fragile, and thus triggering fertile environment for rising costs of living, unemployment and poverty.
20. Other areas of focus was our contribution as a municipality to end load-shedding given the fact that we are hosting five (5) coal fired power stations, and I am happy to announce that within these 100days, we have worked around the clock to assist ESKOM to bring online two additional units (units 1 and 3) which meant an additional 1600 megawatts to the National grid.
21. Other threats with the potential to collapse our municipality is the increasing rate of crime particularly car high jacking, and I can report that I have directed that our law enforcement must be beefed up, before the **1st of November** so that we can mitigate the spike of criminal

activities during the festive season which is around the corner and beyond.

22. As part of the **safer city concept**, working within the security cluster we have already started with joint operations to clean the CBD and surrounding hot spots.
23. I will use this breakfast roundtable platform to plead for your support as a business community in setting up a high-tech command center to be assisted by feed from drones and ground tactical response teams.
24. The plan and costed needs to set up the command center have been finalized, the Executive Director for Community Services and Public Safety, Mr. Matlebjoane or my office can be contacted if you want to make a pledge to the safer city concept, in order to saves lives and to protect our business environment.
25. Another serious threats to our turnaround strategy are issues of corruption, perceived or real, allegations of corruption have undermined the public confidence to the municipality, therefore inducing negative corporate image.
26. In the 100 days, I have also processed all the forensic reports and are ready to be tabled to council and where wrong doing has been confirmed consequence management will be apply without fear or favour.
27. Other institutional weaknesses I had to deal with in my acceptance speech ranges from ineffective communication strategies, dysfunctional and under

resourced LED Unit, poor audit outcomes, mismatch between the demand for basic services and capacity to supply.

28. Including under-funded infrastructure maintenance plan, low levels of revenue collections, financial health which requires intensive care unit, high level of distribution losses due to illegal connections and aging infrastructure.
29. Limping institution with low level of technical skills and high reliance on outsourcing, poor planning and under spending on capital projects mainly funded through conditional grants.
30. Complaints around inaccurate billing system and failure to fill vacant critical budgeted posts within six (6) months.
31. All these institutional weaknesses have been receiving serious attention during my first 100days in office and will continue to be under the radar as part of the work in progress and detailed progress report will be given in my 2024 state of the Municipal address.
32. Hon. Speaker, ladies and Gentleman let me at this point in time give you synopsis of my 100 days milestone starting with institutional capacity.

33. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY (CORPORATE SERVICES)

33.1. I have already initiated a **bold** and **decisive** approach to **re-engineer** our organizational structure by aligning it to the electoral mandate of the current administration but also ensuring that critical budgeted posts are filled in by the 1st of November 2023.

33.2. More importantly, recruiting and placing right people in the right positions with a proper transparent succession plan, retention of skilled and experienced workforce.

33.3. Upskilling, Performance Management and Consequence Management are the integral part of building a responsive institutional capacity.

33.4. In a period of 100days, of the **282** vacant budgeted posts, **96 positions** have been advertised and interviews are in progress. The target was to fill 85% of all budgeted positions by the end of October 2023. From 1st of July 2023 to date **40** appointments have been finalized.

33.5. Expanded Public Works Program

33.5.1. To alleviate poverty, we are currently having **489** EPWPs in our system at a total cost of **R18M**. I have directed that we review the approach to see if we can't improve the terms and conditions of their employment contract. We are ready for the New intake of **450** by the 1st of December 2023.

33.5.2. All MMCs and designated Managers are now attending labour forums as expected but also that, once an agreement has been reached with labour, it must be implemented without fail because I am convinced that **Labour Peace** is an important pillar of **Good Governance** and **Municipal Turnaround Strategy**.

34. DDP: SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION AND SOCIAL COHESION

34.1. Ladies and Gentleman, to provide land to those who work it and houses to those who need them.

34.2. The politics of managing public spaces must respond to the plight of historically disadvantaged human settlements, Informal Traders, Hawkers, and land-based industries particularly in the SMME sector as a fundamental principle in our transformation discourse to dismantle the structure of apartheid economy.

34.3. To this end, my acceptance speech committed to accelerate disposal of municipal land for integrated human settlements and development.

34.4. Which include the pace of formalizing the informal settlements or relocating them, issuing of title deeds and improving the turnaround time of finalizing lease agreements applications and business development proposals. Lowering the costs of doing business in our

municipality including removal of unnecessary red tapes.

34.5. Accordingly, our land use management policy and by-laws must be reviewed if they are not assisting us to accelerate spatial transformation and social cohesion.

34.6. I am happy to announce that in my 100 days, **Seven(7)** development applications were processed and approved for formalizations and the total stands to be created are **4491**

34.7. I am equally excited that today immediately after this breakfast round table session I will be signing off certificates of intent to enter into MOUs for the following land-based development projects:

- Firstly Solar Farm project in partnership with the Private Sector.
- As well as the MOU which will enable the Municipality to tap from Highveld Water Pipe Line.
- Construction of Makro at Coridor.
- A letter of intent to sign an MOU with **Its Possible for All Foundation** in the fight against Drugs and Substance abuse in including social integration of Ex-Offenders.

34.8. All these projects have combined potential of creating more than 1000 jobs (estimation) because they are all labour intensive.

NB: Indeed 2023 is the Year of Decisive Action to Defend, Advance and Deepen the Gains of our Democracy.

34.9. In 100 days, **503** households have been resettled in Empumelelweni Extensions and **239** title deeds have been issued to beneficiaries of Klarinet, Kwa-Guqa, Hlalanikahle, Siyaqoba and Phola Extensions between July and October 2023.

35. Local Economic Development

- Emalahleni Local Municipality is one of the strategic industrial hubs in the Mpumalanga Province, it is the second largest economy in the Province and the biggest in the NDM.
- Its comparative advantage is anchored on the coal mining and energy value chain, strong retail industry, manufacturing, community and financial services combined contributing **46.27%** to the Nkangala District Economy.
- By virtue of its geographic location and road networks, ELM shares boundaries with Gauteng Province the Economic Power house of South Africa and our proximity to the OR International Airport and Maputo corridor gives easy access to the Mozambican harbor, and the entire SADC Countries, and thus Emalahleni comparative advantage is by far second to none in the Mpumalanga Province.

- Right from day one, I was clear about the urgent need to re-position ELM by focusing on the role of the LED unit capacity to facilitate enabling business environment, because that is one of the Constitutional mandates of Local Government.
- I can report that a lot of work has been done in the last 100 days to ensure that LED becomes a fully fledged Directorate with a well-defined mandate and in-house capabilities which includes but not limited to SMME Support, Economic Governance, Economic Researcher, Sector specialists which must cover green economy and the 4th Industrial Revolution, Industrialization economist, dedicated focus on inter-governmental relations and strategic partnerships.
- On the strategic partnerships and inter-governmental relations, I have already met and engaged a wide range of key social partners such as the Mining and Energy Cluster, Manufacturing, Retail industry and few business chambers.
- They have all supported the establishment of the **Economic Advisory Council** which is awaiting Council approval.
- The municipal is currently reviewing its Local Economic Development, Trade and Investment Strategies. These economic blue prints must be able to project the economic landscape of Emalahleni 10,20,30 years from now.
- We have also in principle agreed to work together beyond the act of just compliance and ticking the box, we want to

optimize the impact of corporate social responsibility. (CSR), Enterprise Development encompassing incubation, contractor development, skills development and most importantly strengthen the pillar of localization and supplier development and industrialization.

- Leading by Example in my 100 days, the ELM has ring fenced R5M to support local SMMEs, in expanding their businesses. The advert will be closing in the next few days, and the grant in-kind and or procurement of equipment is limited to a maximum grant of R150K per entity
- We have already started to engage various SETAs and other relevant institutions such as MRTT, CTC with a strategic goal of increasing the municipal skills base and employability of young people in particular. A total of 25 learners have been placed in various departments within the municipality for a compulsory pre-requisite module before they can be able to graduate in their respective fields of study.
- In the same period of 100 days, as indicated, the council has already approved the first solar plant to be constructed in our municipality to mitigate energy shortage and load shedding with a potential of creating 300 permanent jobs.
- In my recent outbound mission to Europe as part of the delegation of the **Presidential Climate Change Commission**. I took along few business plans which are ready for investment namely Solar Plant, Fly-Ash

beneficiation Plant, Bamboo trees industry value chain to mention but a few.

- I Take this opportunity to invite you as local corporate citizens to consider diversifying your business portfolios including Public-Private community Partnerships to attract capital and expertise to our municipality aimed at the strategic Energy mix beyond coal centric, to create more resilient local economy but also to diversity Municipal Revenue Streams.
- Hon speaker, the Municipality is on the investment promotion drive in public renewable and cleaner power-generating capacity to expand and strength the municipal electricity supply to homes and business
- Once again, I need to mention that, Emalahleni has now been gazetted as one of the eight (8) Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) in the country to foster economic opportunities and aligned with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles which are the primary consideration in attracting domestic and foreign direct investment.
- The benefit to your business of this Gazette, it is specifically reducing the time and costs of environmental Impact Assessment because your application will be prioritized and may be exempted from certain EIA activities depending on your business case.

- Secondly, what this gazette mean is that, our application as the Municipality for the Manufacturing Metal and Energy Special Economic Zone in terms of the SEZ Act is almost guaranteed and the application process will be shortened as well.
- Once again, an SEZ will significantly reduce the cost of doing business in our municipality but also it will give us an added competitive advantage.
- All we need is to secure anchor companies to firm up an investment pipeline
- In the SEZ we all benefit, DTI, Anchor companies and the Municipality are all shareholders by virtue of their contributions.
- All other companies within the SEZ will benefit from the related incentive package guided by the SEZ Act such as Tax holidays from SARS, borrowing facility special tariffs effectively reducing the cost of doing business and thus attracting more investment to our municipality.
- Please note that with the revised SEZ Act industrial parks stands to benefit as well.
- Ladies and Gentleman the REDZ and SEZ will be the first agenda items of the Mayoral Economic Advisory Council and I hope we will join hands to change the Economic landscape of Emalahleni and put it into an irreversible

economic growth and development trajectory towards our 2050 Vision where we will have a double digit's economic growth p/a and at the very least reduce the negative socio-economic indicators to a single digit, for an example poverty levels and unemployment rates will be zero or less than 10%.

- Esteemed guests, this vision is a reality only if we know what we are doing and are able to join hands through collaborative and strategic partnerships by taking **bold** and decisive **decisions** and **actions**.

36. TECHNICAL SERVICES

36.1. WATER, SANITATION, SEWERAGE AND ROADS

- Hon Speaker, esteemed guests, through inter-government relations framework and strategic partnerships, we are hard at work to rehabilitate and expand our aging social and economic infrastructure.
- Please take note that, we will need both financial and non-financial support where you can periodically second your skilled personnel like **Engineers, Technical Specialists** to help us with our **infrastructure maintenance plan**.

36.2. ROADS

- A total of **3 625 M²** of roads was patched, during the first 100 days milestone in areas such as Mandela Road, Mbethe Street, Thubelihle khayalami, Kwa-Mthunzi

Vilakaza, Mathew Phosa street and many more but we also know that many more are still outstanding. We are starting with main roads then we will come to access roads.

- Today I am placing a special plea to the business community as I **officially launch “Adopt A street program”** with branding rights within the confines of the municipal by-laws (A list of priority streets is available in my office on request). Working together to eliminate potholes in our main roads is possible before we get deep into the rainy season. (I can see in your faces some of you wants to adopt a street now before they leave this breakfast round table session) Let’s Give them a big round of applause! of course to build this beautiful Nation. We need. Thought leadership in both Public and Private Sector which is **Patriotic and Decisive.**
- Maintenance of Gravel Roads was undertaken which involved grading and re-gravelling in areas such as Sinqobile, Kromndraai Road, Naauport, Leeuport, Zaaihoek, Kwa-Mthunzi Vilakazi and Hlalanikahle a total of **149, 5km.**
- On the area of gravel roads maintenance, we appeal to those businesses who own yellow plant to assist by borrowing the municipality the relevant plant configuration for a day or 2 or a week for our re-gravelling priority roads programme to mitigate the negative impact of heavy rains (under corrections, I am sure such donations are tax deductible) **Together Let’s Build Better Communities.**

36.3. WATER

- As part of my 100 days commitment on improving access to water supply.
- The progress is at 95% to secure approval from DWS on the Witbank Dam abstraction license increase.
- **3500** household new water connections in Empumelelweni Ext 10 and Kwa Guqa Ext have been completed.
- To maintain our blue drop status on the quality of drinking water, the project on the Refurbishment of filters at Witbank and Ga-Nala Treatment Plants are at 80% complete.
- Today, I am supposed to be signing an MOA with Highveld steel (I hope they are here) for us to tie our Raw Water Supply line from their line to point E Reservoir in order to permanently solve the challenges of inconsistent water supply at Ezenambeni /Extension.
- This project remains our utmost priority because water is life. Yes, it has taken longer than expected but this Government can always put on the table, portfolio of evidence of what has been done to reduce the service delivery or socio -economic deficit inherited from the pre-1994 dispensation. We have to continue ensuring **free basic water of 6kl per indigent household.**

- The legacy I want to leave working together with you is to solve the challenges of inconsistent supply of clean water to all communities of eMalahleni including to our business community because currently it is difficult to attract water-based industries to come and invest in our municipality.

36.4. ELECTRICITY

- Working together with our communities we will ensure safe and reliable electricity supply.
- Ensure that all poor households receive the amount of free electricity allocations that they are entitled to. As eMalahleni LM we continue to provide for households **50kilo watts** of free basic electricity every month without fail
- As stated early on, invest in public renewable and cleaner power generating capacity, and Municipality electricity transmission infrastructure. To strengthen electricity supply to homes and businesses
- To this end in the last 100 days I had numerous engagements with ESKOM and significant progress has been registered, in terms of increasing our Notified Maximum Demand (NDM) which means the amount of electricity that we can draw from ESKOM in terms of our license could be increased in the near future to balance the supply and demand curve.
- I can report that our application for the ESKOM Debt Relief Scheme in terms of circular 124 has been approved.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, I must indicate up front that for the municipality to benefit from the Eskom Debt Relief Program it means we must be able to pay our current account
- Accordingly, I call upon the business community including Government to lead by example and pay their municipal accounts by the 7th of each month without fail.
- And I wish to thank all those business entities who are already honoring their obligations because financial viability is sacrosanct in our turnaround strategy to deliver reliable services promptly.
- We have also procured a second **40 MVA Transformer** to stabilize electricity supply in Kwa-Guqa extensions. This transformer was delivered and commissioned in August 2023.
- For the period under review we have electrified **320 households** in Phola. These households were energized in August 2023.
- Other 100 days quick wins include but not limited to the refurbishment of community street lighting in greater Emalahleni namely, installation of **10 high mast lights**, rehabilitation of **105 high mast lights** and retrofitted with LED lights.

- To reinforce the Municipal Credit Control Policy, we have started with the installation of 19 smart bulk meters for commercial and industrial customers.
- In general, we have intensified the installation of consumer smart meters, operations to disconnect illegal connections and cut-offs as part of mandatory strategies to reboot our revenue collection measures.

37. COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **Together, building safer community and fighting crime, Drugs and Alcohol Abuse.**
- Hon, Speaker, I re-confirm my commitment within the leadership collective to collaborate with other sector departments and role players to act boldly and decisively in dealing with the rising levels of crime, lawlessness, violence and vandalism of municipal infrastructure through a multi-sectoral command Centre equipped with the latest crime fighting technology, surveillance of hot-spots using drones and building in-house tactical response capabilities.
- In our bit to recovery from collateral damage of trust deficit. I can confirm that surveillance cameras have now been installed in all strategic points of the municipal building and a **Toll-free Anti- Fraud and Anti-Corruption hotline** has been concluded within the 100days and the toll-free number is **(0800 204 228) (I REPEAT, I REPEAT)**

- In this short period, As indicated earlier on we have also focused on community lighting infrastructure to mitigate the increasing levels of crime and but also to reduce the number of road accidents to make our township and inner-city areas safe.
- Rebuilding sports facilities that have fallen into disrepair, we have started renovating Sy-Mthimunye stadium, our aim is to bring our local sport facilities to a level where we can be able to host professional matches such as, soccer, netball, Rugby and Boxing and all sporting codes to benefit our city from the related economic spin-offs.
- I wish to invite the business community to partner with us in Revitalizing our arts and culture facilities so that we are also be able to create job and business opportunities through these sectors particular for the youth and Women. These areas of work are part of our quick wins and priority package which will be circulating in your tables
- Targeting the youth, together with the NDM we have conducted a number of awareness blitz on teenage pregnancy, drugs and substance abuse.
- District wide 500 learners were recruited for training through LGSETA on welding, plumbing, road works, building and civil construction over and above the 25 Learners which we have absorbed as the municipality to give those learners experiential learning.

38. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

- Once again in my acceptance speech, I committed that we will work with all spheres of government to diversify and strengthen measures, to generate revenue and improve revenue collection.
- Reduce unfunded mandates and strengthen oversight on the implementation of financial recovery plan (FRP) and implementation of **circular 124 on ESKOM debt relief scheme**.
- The council has already adopted a budget funding plan which sets out measures the municipality will take to achieve a funded plan.
- Accordingly, I have directed that the budget steering committee which I am chairing in terms of the MFMA must sit every Tuesday to monitor the budget plan.
- I am happy to indicate that since I arrived this committee is sitting as planned and the financial controlled environment is improving day by day.
- We committed to work with you to push revenue collection at least to a minimal of 80%. Our 2023/2024 budget is based on 80% Revenue Collection, if we under-collect we

will not be able to achieve the service delivery targets we have set together with you.

38.1. I can report that in 100 days' time the revenue collection has improved from 54% to an average of 60% collection we still have a deficit of 20% to get to our 80% target as per our commitment to circular 124.

38.2. I am saying we can still do more

PAY YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT AND DEMAND QUALITY AND Reliable DELIVERY OF SERVICES.

39. ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- On first month of my arrival I forged strategic partnership to launch the **Letsema Service Delivery Friday Campaigns** to keep eMalahleni clean and green but also to mitigate the impact of climate change.
- To date we have successfully cleaned 151 illegal dumping sites between the period July to September 2023.
- The municipality is now participating on the Just Energy Transition (JET) training and a draft energy mixed plan has been submitted to council for approval.
- It should also be noted that we extended waste removal service to informal settlement and new developed areas.

- Ladies and Gentlemen as part of Letsema Campaign we continue to conduct awareness blitz to strengthen the implementation of our by-laws but also to inculcate the spirit and sense of environmental responsibility towards the imperatives of **Sustainable Development and Green Economy**.
 - These first 100days have put us firmly on the recovery path in all the key performance area as outline in the constitution of RSA.
40. I do wish to conclude this 100days report by quoting the late Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela open quote “One of the Greatest Things I Fear, is letting down my community, I would not leave with that type of conscious after they been brutalized for so long” close quote. **Together lets build better communities**

VISION: TO BE A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION



Cllr. L.M Mabuza
Executive Mayor