

# **ACCEPTANCE REMARKS BY THE MAYOR, CLR FREDDY SELLO HLUNGWANE, DURING THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF BELA-BELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**Municipal chamber**

**02 June 2011**

Madam Speaker

Members of the Executive Committee

The Chief Whip

Members of Council

Municipal Manager

Head of Departments

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure and honour to address this council for the first time.

Madam Speaker

Allow me to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to members of Council for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me to the office of the Mayor.

I wish to pledge that I will endeavour to discharge my duties to the best of my ability, as the deployee of the African National Congress.

We should of course be mindful of the fact that although we represent different constituencies as members of this Council, we are collectively bound by a common obligation to advance development in the Municipality.

It will make my work easier if I am assured that we all share that common goal.

Madam Speaker

As a new Council we have a duty to learn and learn fast so that we can take the baton from where the previous Council left off.

We will build on the achievements of the previous Council and improve on the shortcomings it had experienced.

We are all witnesses to the fact that much still needs to be done in order to improve the lives of residents.

I wish to appeal to all members of Council that we work together to address the challenges facing the Municipality.

I undertake to do what I can to consult and co-operate with stakeholders inside and outside Council to ensure that our decisions are in the best interest of residents.

I also wish to call in particular, on the Democratic Alliance, which is the opposition party, as well as Cllr PM Aphane who joins this Council as independent, to a spirit of co-operation where we put the interest of residents first.

Let me once again thank the previous Council and my predecessor, Cllr Dibang Ledwaba, for the foundations they have laid.

I wish to honour this moment by expressing my appreciation to the previous Speaker of Council, Mme Fatima Maloka and the former ANC Chief Whip Cllr Lucas Nhlapo for the stunning job done.

I wish to also acknowledge and pay respect to Khosi Mahlangu of Rapotokwane for his participation in the work and development of our municipality and communities.

Madam Speaker

We are all looking forward to working hand in hand with residents in our quest for quality provision of services as well as economic development and strive to reduce unemployment and poverty.

Consistent with our local government manifesto, which informed our victory on 18 May two weeks ago, we must work together, as a team to build sustainable communities in all our nine wards in Bela Bela.

It therefore remains the responsibility of this council to ensure that our community leads better and quality lives in a safe, habitable and prosperous environment.

Madam Speaker

We have to stand up to these challenges if we are to make any difference.

We should therefore brace ourselves for the hard work ahead, much lies ahead of us.

I thank you Madam Speaker