

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE MAYOR CLLR
..... DURING A FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN KWABHACA ON THE 15th NOVEMBER 2021.**

Madam Speaker, Cllr

The Chief Whip, Cllr

Fellow Councilors

Traditional Leaders

Umzimvubu Municipal Manager, Mr. GPT Nota

Senior Management

Present Media Houses

Honoured guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning, Molweni, Bhotani Mawethu!!

The people of Umzimvubu Local Municipality exercised their democratic right to vote on the 1st of November 2021. They have endorsed our motion for a growing economy in order to accelerate the creation of jobs and foster better services. This will be the mandate of this new council administration.

In so doing, let me also commend the strides and efforts of the outgoing Mayor. The sterling leadership was displayed has seen the Municipality reaching better heights than before. It gives me great pleasure to carry the baton and further stretch the success rate of this Municipality.

Madam Speaker; Umzimvubu has a rich history of reconciliation and this has once again manifested in hope for hundreds of thousands of residents to whom we owe our collective thanks and our commitment to work together for their collective and individual benefit.

After having lost our way, it is our responsibility to continue this legacy and to set a new standard for better governance and service delivery for all residents of this Municipality.

Ladies and Gentlemen; corruption is the enemy of freedom and fairness because it is the thief of opportunity. All Municipal funds ought to be used effectively by stretching every tax rand to achieve optimum outputs in the direct interest of every resident.

This can only be achieved with an efficient, effective and highly skilled administration. One that is nimble and that will facilitate and attract the investment to sustain economic growth to get the unemployed people of our towns working.

We will respect all legislation pertaining to Local Government and we pledge to enforce the law and function strictly within its boundaries. Any official or public representative found to be operating outside the rule of law will be charged and will have to

account for their actions or derelictions in the relevant courts of law or within the municipal disciplinary structures.

Madam Speaker; It is time to lock the revolving doors of corruption and bring about a new model of administration. We believe that the African National Congress has become a ruling party of choice for Umzimvubu. Therefore, **sicela intsebenziswano**.

Our people are waiting for services, iindlela zethu zilinde thina, abantu bethu bafuna ukulayita umbane, sithunywe ngabahlali, masikhawuleze sibuye neempendulo ekuzisweni kweenkonzo.

We need a new, bold and dynamic vision for our Municipal economy - a vision that provides for infrastructure investment that not only maintains our existing infrastructure but that will allow for the development of new infrastructure.

An infrastructure that will create jobs and exploit our enormous tourism potential.

An infrastructure that will stimulate our agricultural economy and that will promote the growth of SMME's especially in our neglected areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I challenge us to become more proactive in leveraging our pivotal geographic position. A stable political

environment combined with a forward thinking and jobs orientated local government, will attract the right investment to grow our economy and create better jobs for all.

We will need to work better with the existing business sector and encourage them to reinvest in our Municipality as well as attract new investment to ensure economic diversity.

A focus on SMMEs is critical to any successful jobs plan. Given the right support, small businesses will have the influence to empower and employ, while providing freedom and opportunity to thousands of residents.

During the first 100 days as Mayor of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, I will ensure that small businesses become a major priority for better economic activities and investment. We will need to support this sector and provide the necessary assistance if we are to create adequate job opportunities for all.

Fellow Councilors; on a slightly different note, our people are in need of water and sanitation. As local government, we must acknowledge that we have a major backlog that needs to be addressed through our various strategic platforms of governance.

This matter can no longer be ignored because it impacts negatively on the livelihood of our people. Therefore, Councilors are urged to

regularly update and facilitate monthly engagements with their communities. The election fever has come and gone.

Masihambeni ngoku siyosebenza.

Transparency and honesty will become the trademark of this new administration. We will show the residents of this Municipality that we can and will work together in their best interest.

The roll out of social and early childhood development programs will be critical to preventing our youth from being sucked into a life of crime.

While the government will serve the interests of everyone, regardless of who they voted for, we can best do that if every constituency has a credible and constructive voice in this Council. I will ensure that such a political climate will prevail where we can all fulfill our political responsibilities in the best interests of our people.

We look forward to the full expression of our democratic mandate by implementing our manifesto of change and by working together for all the people.

This also means that we will work with all the officials of this municipality to fulfill the responsibilities of local government as per

the Constitution, The Municipal Systems and Structure Acts, the MFMA and all the by-laws of this Municipality.

I want to be really explicit with regard to my philosophy of treating professional civil servants professionally. I will ensure that there will be no political interference in the professional work space and that each and every official will be treated fairly and with respect. In return, I will expect the highest standard of professionalism and dedication from each and every official.

Lastly, allow me to thank and pay a special tribute to the voters of this Municipality that took their responsibility of being the custodians of our democracy.

I thank you.

Speech Delivered by:

Cllr.....