

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNICATION BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR, JS BONGWE AT THE 3rd ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2018 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER (ERMELO) AT 14H00.**

Madam Speaker  
Whip of Council  
Fellow MMCs'  
Honourable Councillors  
MM  
Directors  
CDWs'

Members of the Community and the media

The year 2018 is drawing to a close. Within the next seventeen days or so we will be talking of the year 2018 as the year that was.

On the political and societal front we will look back and remember that, this has been a year where we lost quite a few of our very key and influential South African leaders and individuals ranging from Politicians, Artists and community members, including our own municipal employees.

Only yesterday, the former Deputy Chairperson of now defunct Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Dr Alex Boraine was laid to rest in the Western Cape.

How can we forget:           Prof. Keorapetse Kgositsile  
  Minister Edna Molewa  
  Bra Hugh Masekela – of the “Thuma Mina” fame  
  Mam Winnie Madikizela-Mandela  
  GSDM former Executive Mayor Councillor Meshack Nhlabathi  
  Our founding Chairperson of the ANC Gert Sibande Region and former MEC for  
  Human Settlement Hon. MS Ginindza, to mention but a few. All we can say is  
**AS'PHELELANGA!!!**

(Indeed we are no more a full complement, now that, you are all gone).

Madam Speaker and Fellow Councillors

On an administrative front as a municipality, we will look back at the year 2018 as a year wherein just before the end of the second quarter of the financial year, an intervention that seeks to guide us through to a stable financial trajectory was set in ( in line with Section 39 (5)(a) of the Constitution.)

We have also seen a number of contracts of our Section 56 Managers lapsing simultaneously, almost to a point of instability of some form. But, fortunately with the appointment of the MM and Director Planning and Economic Development of course assisted by some Sectional Managers who from time to time act in these positions every time there is a vacancy.

We strongly believe there will be no huge loss of institutional memory as we forge ahead in ensuring that we deliver services to our communities, but also we recover financially.

As we roll-up our sleeves to face the New Year and the year of general elections 2019 with more focus vigour and determination. We have noted with concern the number of protest marches and land invasions, especially the violent and illegal ones, respectively.

Be that as it may, we need to continue guiding and leading our communities, and make them understand that we are here as a municipality, to provide services to them, together with them through the limited resources we have, including revenue that we get from them if and when they pay for the services we give to them. We are obliged by the constitution. No-one is doing the other any favour.

Madam Speaker

In conclusion, I wish to on behalf of the collective leadership we are extend a word of sincere gratitude to fellow Councillors, Administration and member of our community, who never stop to contribute constructively, and who

never stop believing that as Msukaligwa Local Municipality, We have what it takes, to can, one day, be counted among the best municipalities in the land.

During this festive time of sharing and togetherness, let us all, as we spend time with friends and families, in a spirit of sharing and enjoying, do so in a responsible way.

Having observed the 16 days of Activism campaign for no violence against women and children. Let us condomise during this HIV/AIDS awareness month.

We also wish our young people, especially those who were writing their Matric exam, success and a prosperously brighter future.

Let us not drink and drive, let us not be rude and violent anywhere we are having fun.

To all of you as Msukaligwa residents, including those who will be visiting our area, we wish you all, a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

To my good friend, Councillor Blignaut, 'n Geseende Kersfees, en 'n voorspoedinge Nuwe Jaar"