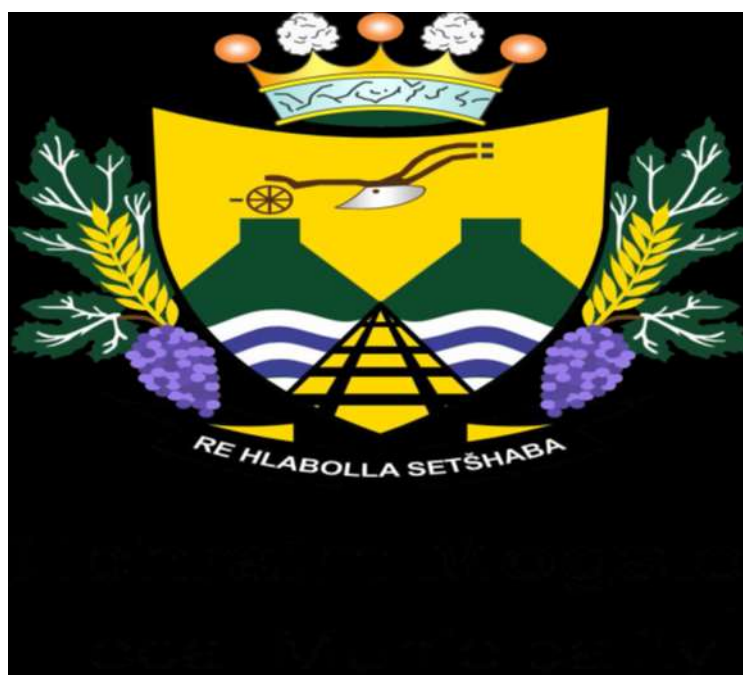


## **EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**



**VISION: "A WORLD CLASS AGRICULTURAL HUB OF CHOICE"**

**STATE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP MAYOR OF EPHRAIM  
MOGALE CLLR GIVEN MOIMANA**

**VENUE: MOSHONGOVILE-MOGANYAKA SPORTS GROUND**

**DATE: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

**TIME: 12h00**

Honourable Speaker

The Chiefwhip of Council  
Executive Committee members  
Executive Mayor of our District Municipality  
MMC's of the District Municipality  
The Speaker of the District Municipality  
Chiefwhip of the District Municipality  
Honourable Councillors  
Our esteemed Traditional Leaders ( Maapara Nkwe)  
The Secretary of the African national Congress,  
Sekhukhune Region  
Leaders of the Tripartite Alliance  
Leaders of the opposition parties  
Municipal Manager and officials  
Representatives of organized labour  
Business sector representatives  
Our friends from the media fraternity  
Fellow residents of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality  
Tameng. Dumelang, Lotshani. Good day.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Honourable Speaker**

Today is an important day for the people of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. As their servants, we are here to account for the work we did in the past financial year, but most importantly, to outline our plans on how their money will be spent to improve their communities going forward.

Madam Speaker our people placed upon our shoulders enormous responsibilities to serve them with humility, dedication, focusing diligently on improving their lives.

As elected councillors, from our ideologically different political parties, representing them in Council, our sole purpose must be to serve them instead of ourselves.

The governing party, the African National Congress, has admitted in its latest election manifesto, that the system of local government is moving slowly.

Therefore, the governing party has resolved, among other things, to working honestly, openly, in a more innovative and courageous way, along with communities, as we seek to improve the quality of services provided to our people.

This entails going back to the basics and repositioning our municipalities to serve our communities in an improved manner.

We are meeting here two days after the commemoration of Africa day. It was on 25<sup>th</sup> May when we commemorated 59<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of the Organization of African Unity in the year 1963. Which is the predecessor to the now called the African Union.

### **Honourable Speaker**

The May 25<sup>th</sup> marks the 59<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the OAU, that is when leaders from the thirty of the then thirty-two independent African States signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to form the then Organisation of African Unity.

### **Honourable Speaker**

They created OAU in an effort to help bring about change, freedom, unity and independence to many African countries.

Today as the South Africans we are free because of the efforts took by those leaders who wanted nothing but change and freedom in the African continent.

Africa day is for all African countries but however, Africa Day is observed as a public holiday in only twelve African countries such as Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, and Mauritania.

The theme for the 59<sup>th</sup> year of Africa month 2022 is “Building Resilience in Nutrition for the African Continent in the Year of Unity and renewal for a better Africa and better world”. The Africa Day celebration aims to promote social cohesion and nation building among African nations; to encourage conversations and dialogues within communities to discuss xenophobia and tribalism; to promote cultural tolerance and integration; to increase appreciation and demand for arts and cultural goods and services and to stimulate competitive markets for trade among African countries.

### **Honourable Speaker**

In the coming days our country will mark the 43rd anniversary of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS).

Founded in June 1979, COSAS played an instrumental role in the liberation struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa.

We take this opportunity to honour the first president of COSAS, son of the soil, Ephraim “ Phorogohlo” Mogale, whom our local municipality was duly named after.

While COSAS was founded to advocate for free and compulsory education system, which it believed was only possible in a non-racial and democratic South Africa, Mogale and his generation of militant students went on to confront the repressive Apartheid regime.

Young people have over generations shown their fearlessness and bravery, to confronting any form injustice to humanity.

We salute all the young people who took up a fight to the colonial and apartheid systems to liberate the African majority in the land of their birth.

### **Honourable Speaker**

In the same breath, even as our country is now a democracy that is founded on the supremacy of the constitution, and human rights, we recognize that today young people are faced with a different set of challenges.

We acknowledge our government’s efforts over the years, to broaden access to basic education, and fund free tertiary education to those who are eligible.

However, unemployment rate is at a record high, perpetuated by the COVID-19

pandemic that threw ours and the world's economy into a tailspin.

The demon of drug and alcohol abuse is also ravaging our young people.

These are some of the ills that local government must respond to, as part of government's resolve to fighting unemployment, inequality and poverty.

We owe it to all our people, but to the youths in the main, because of their productive prowess, to facilitate a sustainable economic empowerment in our municipality.

### **Honourable Speaker**

We should not forget that covid-19 is still with us and all the health protocols should be adhered to and not to let our gut down.

### **Honorable Speaker**

As we are speaking now, China is hit hard by the virus and they are on hard Lockdown. In our country to-date the fifth wave of Corona virus is increasing sharply.

It is therefore imperative that we should always put our masks, sanitize and keep safe distance to curb the spread of the virus.

### ***GENDER BASE VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDES***

### **Honorable Speaker**

President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa has announced that there is a second pandemic called Gender based violence, whereby our children and women are brutally killed every time in this country.

This kind of barbaric action should be nipped in the bud, we should stand together to fight femicides and any violence against our children.

The level of abuse, sexual assault and killings of women and children are outrageously high.

### **Honourable Speaker**

The naked truth is that as men, we are generally guilty of these crimes, and we must put an end to it.

We should teach our boy child to love their sisters and not to fall in a trap of perpetuating this kind of behavior.

***Re le Mmasepala wa Ephraim Mogale re re ditaba tša go hloriša le go hlokofofatša Basadi le bana,a re di nyake e bile re ditshwela ka mare. Re dira boipeletso go ditshaba tsa gabo rena gore ba se khutishe badiri ba bobbe bjo.***

**Honourable Speaker**

If we men, have social problems, we should normalize seeking counselling from the professionals. Tsa gore Monna ke Nku o llela teng a di bereke.

The psychological services are free in our public hospitals. Lets visit them so that we could get help.

**Honourable Speaker**

We are making this call that we should not keep quiet when GBV is happening.

Let's report any incident of abuse against women and children to the law enforcement agencies so that perpetrators are brought to book.

### ***ON CORRUPTION AND MALFEASANCE***

**Honourable Speaker**

I want to be very clear on this one.

We will not tolerate corruption, fraud, and maladministration.

These criminalities are the biggest enemies of our people.

It is stealing from the poor.

Corruption and Fraud deny our people services which the democratic government seeks to provide them with.

This fifth council would not tolerate any form of corruption and it will be addressed as and when it rears its ugly head.

We also call upon Municipal officials who are doing business with the State to stop now as this is unlawful. Tough Action will be taken against those found to be doing this.

We are making an appeal to all the staff members to refrain from doing their private businesses during office hours.

Staff members should be at work on time and providing services to the residents of Ephraim Mogale.

**Honorable speaker**

This financial year we are going to ensure that the biometric clocking system is fully functioning, and every staff member should use it.

We need to do away with the manual clocking because it is open for manipulations. Everyone must deservedly earn his/her salary from the lowest ranked employee to political principals.

### **Honorable speaker**

Let me indicate that since we came into office, we have managed to pay courtesy visit to all the Traditional leaders within our Municipality.

The purpose was to introduce the Political Management team of the Municipality to the custodians of land in an effort to create a conducive environment of working together in the provisioning of quality basic services to the people.

### **Honourable Speaker**

It is now over six months since the 5<sup>th</sup> Council was elected into office and just over 100 days since our election into the new positions and our people are hungry for proper service delivery.

And the responsibility of this fifth council is to provide quality services to the community of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

### **Honourable Speaker**

The following are our key priorities:

- Spatial rationale
- Basic service Delivery and Infrastructure
- Local Economic Development
- Financial viability
- Good Governance and public Participation
- Municipal Transformation and Organisational development

To deliver on these priorities means that we must consider moving with the times and full potential and opportunities provided by new technologies and automation. Our workforce should be combat ready to adapt to the new style of working and be compatible to move with speed on new technological developments as Covid-19 has frog-jumped us into the fourth Industrial revolution(4IR).

During our third quarter lekgotla I indicated that we should consider digitalization and automation in order for us to fast-track service delivery to our communities.

### **Honourable Speaker**

The constitution of the Republic of South Africa chapter 7, Objects of Local Government, section 152 among others says Municipalities should provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.

And as the Municipality we have realized what section 152 says we should do, that's why we have involved our communities in our draft Annual report, Draft Integrated Development Plan and draft budget for 2022/2023 financial year for inputs and engagements.

We have just concluded consultation with our stakeholders on the three documents. By doing so we were fulfilling Batho Pele Principles, that says we should consult communities in our decision-making process and report back to them. We are a government that lives up to the principle of the freedom charter when it says The People Shall Govern.

Our municipality must live up to all the Batho Pele principles, with service to our communities at the centre stage.

But to achieve this will require a capable state.

To build a capable state, as is required by the Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024, local government requires an official who promotes sound, efficient, effective, transparent, and accountable administration.

This is the kind of official who will demonstrate professionalism, competency, excellence, and impartiality in the performance of their duties.

### **Honourable Speaker**

Fellow residents of Ephraim Mogale, in February when we accepted the responsibility to serve you, we committed to pursuing a sound, efficient, effective, transparent and accountable administration.

We also recognize the importance of good governance, and that without it, our municipality will not be able to meet the needs of our people.

### **Honourable speaker**



We are happy to report that the Municipality obtained unqualified Audit opinion for the financial year 2020/21.

This is a commendable job and our staff deserves a pat on their shoulders to encourage them not to drop the ball this financial year. We further applaud the good foundation left by those who served before us. Their good work is indeed applaudable.

### **Madam Speaker**

The unemployment rate in South Africa is very high and alarming. And the matter was even worsened when covid-19 hit us in March 2020.

Majority of our people lost their jobs and businesses were negatively affected during the hard lockdown.

The President of the country President Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address indicated that government should create a conducive environment for private sector to create job opportunities.

As the political principals of this institution, it is our responsibility to galvanize the support of private businesses to create jobs, build rapport, working relationship and to know how they are ploughing back to the communities through their corporate social responsibilities (CSI). We are therefore pleased to announce that :

- Afrimat ( a mining company in Marble Hall town) has provided 4 bursaries to deserving learners from our communities to further their studies in institutions of higher learning.
- Motema Resources and Marble Vervoer have joined hands with the Municipality to provide the Municipality with Ashfalt to patch potholes in Marble Hall town.
- The municipality further intent to work closer with the local mines and industries operating within our municipal jurisdiction to invest in sustainable community development initiatives through Social and Labour Plan (SLPs) and Corporate Social Investment (CSI).
- We are in negotiations with the two mines (Afrimat and Lime Chem) to combine their SLP budget for great impact.

We urge other private institutions to come on board to contribute to this just and noble course.

## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Madam Speaker**

Our Municipality is wholly Agricultural, and we are the biggest citrus producers in the country. And Agriculture is one of the economic drivers in the Municipality.

The municipality must come up with a plan to encourage the traditional leadership (Magoshi) to avail land for emerging farmers to enter this all-important sector.

We also intent to improve partnership with the commercial farmers to impart their skills to emerging farmers to transform the agricultural sector and in the process ensuring sustainable food security. We have already witnessed the positive results from this partnership in Rahlagane Table Grape and Kopano Disabled Cooperative.

Last week we have met with our partners in Agricultural sector with the aim of building strategic relationship.

We were most welcomed, and we took a decision that we should meet frequently.

In our mist here we have the representatives of Loskop Farmers Association. We are further making a plea to our farmers to prioritize employment of South Africans and put a stop to employment of illegal immigrants.

We are happy to announce that the farms that we visited since our election into office have over 80 percent employment of South Africans and we urge others to do the same.

We urge our youth to take up opportunities in Agriculture with both hands, in our mist here is a young woman from Elandskraal by the name of Hunadi Mabulane whose farm in Elandskraal , 5 permanent staff and 20 seasonal staff. We are urging our youth to cease the opportunities in Agriculture to overcome the unemployment that is continuing to rise.

We also calling upon the commercial farmers both white and black to assist the emerging farmers like Hunadi to gain access to various agricultural market centers.

## **Honourable Speaker**

In addition to providing democratic and accountable governance to local communities, municipalities must also promote social and economic development to create opportunities for residents.

In this regard, our municipality made a crucial milestone for SMMEs and Cooperative development by adopting the Local Economic Development project funding policy.

The aim of the policy is to provide financial assistance in the acquisition of tools, material and other services that could unlock and improve the performance of the SMMEs and Cooperatives.

The municipality provided a total of 13 SMMEs and Cooperatives with equipment such as sewing machines, chicken feeds and baking stoves during the past financial year. The municipality is finalizing the allocation of funds for this financial year ending June 2022, more than 15 SMMEs will further benefit from this funding.

Even under tough Covid-19 restrictions, we managed to organize a hybrid LED Summit with a limited number of physical attendees and others participating virtually.

In partnership with the local radio stations, we also managed to reach many SMMEs and Cooperatives during the summit.

We are also pleased to announce that the Business Licensing Function has been fully transferred to our municipality from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

Our business owners will no longer travel to Lebowakgomo to access this service and on the other hand, the municipality will generate revenue to improve service delivery to communities.

## **Madam Speaker**

In an effort to promote economic development, the Municipality will in the coming weeks unlock more than 200 hectares of land for major infrastructure development calling interested private businesses with good bankable business plans to partner the Municipality in a Public-Private- Partnership to establish a regional shopping mall and private hospital in Marble Hall Town. This major infrastructure development will create many job opportunities for our people.

## **EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

**Honorable Speaker,**

We are currently funding the studies of six students who are pursuing medical studies and natural science degrees at various universities across the country.

These are academically gifted young people from our municipality, who without financial support, would have had their dreams and futures disappear into oblivion.

## **BUDGET 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**Honourable Speaker,**

Today we are also delivering a budget of **R376 million** for the year 2022/2023 financial year which is an average increase of 7% from the 2021/2022 to enable the Municipality to fund its Operating and capital expenditure.

This budget is coming from the Equitable shares, Grants and our own revenue from electricity, property rates and Licensing.

**Honourable speaker**

The capital budget for 2022/2023 amounts to **R70million** of which R36 million is from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and R34 Million is from the own or internal sources.

Because of its largely rural nature, our municipality's revenue base is quite small. This makes us to be mainly grant dependent.

In 2020/2021 financial year, we managed to spend 100 percent of the MIG.

**As of end of April, we had managed to 66 percent of the MIG, for the financial year that is ending next month.**

As Mayor, together with the Executive Committee, we have made it clear to the municipal manager and her team, that we don't want excuses when it comes to capital grants expenditure.

We are going to ensure that we prioritise forward planning, for a proper budgeting and implementation of projects, to avoid even a slightest under-spending.

## **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

### **Honourable speaker**

The financial stability of the Municipality remains our key focus. I have noticed that our operating expenditure on Employee related cost approaches 40% and it is not a good thing because by law we should not exceed 40% percent.

This needs to be given a poignant look into because we cannot afford to go beyond forty percent.

Our debt book is increasing and programme has been set in motion to follow every cent that is owed to the Municipality. In the past two weeks we had fruitful meetings with the Ratepayers Association and Farmers Association to map a way forward that will result in those households and farmers owing us paying what is due to the Municipality.

Paying for municipal services will enable your Municipality to be financially sustainable and continue to provide quality basic services.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Honorable Speaker**

Part of our many functions and powers as a local municipality include municipal roads, storm water, the collection and disposal of waste material and electricity reticulation.

Ordinarily, these are the services that our people generally assess our performance on.

In a quest to fast-track service delivery, we have set aside R10million for maintenance of municipal roads and stormwater and municipal buildings.

We have also put aside R10 million for the leasing of yellow fleet to augment our own fleet for proper service delivery to our sixteen wards and 78 villages.

We are also planning to erect or build the fourth satellite that will cater for ward 13,14 and 16 (the villages around Moomane, Disenyane and Mathukuthela).

### **Electrical projects**

Access to electricity is a basic human right and an enabler of socio-economic development.

The municipality has a licence to provide electricity to Marble Hall town. In our villages, power utility ( Eskom) provides electricity, and we are happy to announce that all villages are connected to the grid.

The remaining households without electricity are in newly developed extensions in various villages.

For the new financial year, Eskom is planning to electrify 90 households at the extension sections of Manapyane, Moganyaka and Mooihoek Villages.

Separately, Eskom is also planning to connect 365 households in at the Ephraim Mogale Infills.

Our municipality continues to provide free electricity services to families that do not afford this basic service.

**In line with our Indigent Policy, we are currently providing over 2061 beneficiaries with Free Basic Electricity. These are our fellow residents who ordinarily would not afford to purchase electricity.**

Honorable speaker, safety in our communities is also one of our priorities.

Public lighting helps to decrease possible night-time accidents on our roads. They also play a role in our anti-crime efforts, by increasing visibility at night. Currently, the municipality provides 23 areas with public lighting services.

The high mast lights were constructed in Manapyane and Uitvlucht in the previous financial year and Eskom plans are at an advanced stage to complete connection of these lights to the grid.

In the new financial year, We are also going to erect high mast lights at

- Matseding village and Mafisheng at an amount of R3,500,000.00
- And another high mast lights at Doornlagte (Ga-Klopper) at the same amount of R3,500,00

### **Roads and Storm water**

We have developed a road master plan which diagnoses the conditions of roads throughout the municipal area.

The master plan seeks to improve access to viable roads, and to facilitate provision of storm water drainage for all municipal roads.

While these objectives are funded from the MIG, the municipality must strengthen its human resources to speedily address the backlog.

The total length of the internal road network under ownership of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality is 1162.9km.

At 990km, a large part of it is still gravel.

The municipality will continue to optimally use the transfer grants allocated from the fiscus to prioritise areas that require urgent attention.

**The following projects are funded through Municipal infrastructure Grant in the following financial year starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.**

- Regae bus routes is budgeted for R6,754,514.72
- The following are funded through Municipal infrastructure Grant
- Mabitsi internal road is budgeted for R17,563,313.92
- Morarela Internal Road is budgeted for R2,996,060.68
- Rathoke internal street is budgeted for R2,996,060.68
- Dichoeung Internal Road R5,620,000.00

We have also set aside R 3 000 000 to complete Leeufontein Sports complex so that the facility can be handed over to the community in July 2022.

We have also appointed a service provider to investigate what went wrong at Mamphokgo Stadium project and further list the Bill of quantities that still need to be undertaken. An amount of R 600 000 has however been budgeted to conclude the electrification of the stadium.

## **SOLID WASTE SERVICES**

### **Honorable Speaker**

The current situation is that the Landfill site is not fully compliant and there is a need to upgrade the site and review the license of the site despite an annual rehabilitation programme which was done in 2021. But a new refuse compactor

truck was recently purchased and will play a big role in addressing some of the challenges.

Marble Hall Landfill site is the only permitted landfill site in the Municipality.

Access to household waste removal is in Marble Hall, Leeufontein, Leeufontein RDP section, Schoeman Farms and Elandskraal.

Bulk refuse container bins are also provided for access of refuse removal at Regae, outside Moganyaka Clinic, outside Matlala hospital, Leeufontein RDP, Mamphogo Taxi rank and Manapyane.

A comprehensive Integrated Waste Management plan is still at a draft stage.

We are also planning to purchase more Refuse containers to keep our environment safe and clean by extending refuse removal services to the villages. By so doing we would be responding to the President of the ANC cde Cyril Ramaphosa launched Letšema campaign. This campaign is aimed at building a social contract with the communities through community work projects such as cleaning and taking care of our surroundings.

Indeed cleanliness is next to Godliness. We will be promoting the spirit of *mensana in corpore sano*, this is a Latin phrase that mean “ a healthy mind in a healthy body on a clean environment”. Lets keep our environments tidy at all times and keep our Municipality clean.

## **TRAFFIC AND LICENSING CENTRE**

### **Honorable Speaker**

Our municipality operates the Traffic and Licensing Centre (DLTC), which provides licensing services for both drivers and motor vehicles.

The Licensing and Registration section is responsible for the testing of vehicle road worthiness, issuing and testing for learners and driver's license, and professional Road driving permits.

We would like to inform our communities that our Drivers Licensing Testing Centers licensing is open during the weekends (Monday to Friday, 08h00-15h00



and Saturday is open between 08h00 – 13h00 ) and we encourage our people to make use of this opportunity to get the all the DLTC licensing services.

We are planning to take our Licensing services to the satellite offices to ensure that our people get this service at their door steps. Driving license is a necessity that all young people must acquire in order to participate in the economic activities of our country. It has been proven that lack of this basic skill hampers full economic participation. Secondly this move will be a step in decentralization of Marble Hall Town economy.

## **SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE**

### **Honourable Speaker**

Our country , which has been divided along the racial lines has made enormous strides towards nation building and social cohesion since the dawn of democracy.

We owe it to our children and their children to continue building this country as a better place for all to live in.

We must therefore, all actively fight the demons of racism and tribalism whenever they rear their ugly heads.

This year we held a successful Mayor’s Cup tournament at Elandskraal stadium. This tournament has proven to bring the communities of Ephraim Mogale Municipality together and therefore strengthening social cohesion.

### **Honorable Speaker**

Last week on Friday,20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the MEC of Coghsta, Honourable BR Makamu relaunched the Sekhukhune Intergovernmental Relations Forum informed by Chapter 3 of the Constitution of RSA in particular section 40(1) and District Development Model Framework ( DDM), which codifies the principles of corporative government and intergovernmental relations including co-operating with one another in a mutual trust and good faith by

- Fostering friendly relations;
- Assisting and supporting one another

- Informing one another of and consulting one another on matters of common interest;
- Co-ordinating actions of our spheres of government and legislation with one another;

### **Honourable Speaker**

It is against this background that we should work together as the local sphere of government that is at the coal face of service delivery to deliver on our mandate to better the lives of our communities by giving them quality and sustainable services.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker allow me to quote the words by our Honourable Premier Chupu Mathabatha when addressing Salga Limpopo Conference when he said “ **your election into office as Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and councillors is not your personal achievement but an invitation to serve our people**”

### **Le lebotse ga le fetolwe Mahlatji a Hlabirwa**

Asante sana , Ke a leboga .....Re a leboga ....Thank you very much....Pula ya Medupi e le nele bana ba Tsie Kgalaka.