



DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

STATEMENT OF COMMUNICATION BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR. NB KHANYE AT THE 2nd /2025 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2025.

GREETINGS HOUNOURABLE SPEAKER

MEMBERS OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

HONOURABLE CHIEF WHIP AND MPAC CHAIR

COUNCILORS

THE ADMINISTRATION LED BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

VALUED STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SAFE TO SAY, ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED

We meet just after the million of Christians across the world celebrated Easter weekend, I therefore greet you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ that died and rose for our salvation, AMEN!

Allow me the opportunity to send out our heartfelt condolences to all those who recently lost their loved ones, I pray that you may find strength, solace and comfort in the Lord as He is near to the brokenhearted, and He gathers every tear we cry.

Honourable Speaker, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Councilors, Municipal Officials, Distinguished Guests, and Fellow Residents:

As we convene today, I wish to affirm our unwavering commitment to responsible governance, ethical leadership, and the promotion of a safe, inclusive, and service-oriented municipality.

1. Strategic Alignment for the New Financial Year

We are on the cusp of a new financial year—an opportunity to realign our strategic objectives with the developmental needs of our communities. It is imperative that all departments and units operate with synergy, guided by our Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and aligned with our budgetary framework. Our focus remains on prudent financial management, programmatic delivery, and measurable impact. I call upon all officials and Councilors to commit to timely planning, execution, and transparent reporting.

2. Gender-Based Violence and Crime Prevention

The safety and dignity of our residents—especially women, children, and vulnerable groups—remain a top priority. Gender-Based Violence continues to plague our communities, and we cannot allow it to persist in silence. Our administration will intensify collaborative efforts with law enforcement agencies, civil society, and community stakeholders to strengthen preventative programs, raise awareness, and support victims. We are also exploring more responsive municipal edges and joint community outreach initiatives to bolster crime prevention efforts.

3. Service Delivery and Accountability

Our mandate is clear: to deliver quality services efficiently, equitably, and sustainably. I am instructing all heads of departments to ensure that service delivery targets are not just met—but exceeded.

To our residents: we hear your frustrations and are working tirelessly to address issues ranging from water and sanitation to waste management and infrastructure maintenance. Accountability is not negotiable. Officials who fail in their duties will be held responsible.

4. Improving Audit Outcomes

As custodians of public resources, we are committed to achieving clean governance and improved audit outcomes. I commend the departments that have shown improvement, and I urge those still lagging to urgently address all audit findings. Our goal is not merely compliance, but excellence. Internal controls must be tightened, and financial integrity must be always safeguarded.

5. Good Customer Care

Our residents deserve a responsive, respectful, and solution-driven service. I am mandating for improved customer care, improved response times to queries and complaints, to depict a caring government that truly listens—and acts.

6. Freedom Day Celebration

As we approach this year's Freedom Day celebrations, we are reminded of the strength, unity, and unwavering spirit that built our nation—and continue to drive us forward. Under the powerful theme *"United in Resilience for the Defence of Our Freedom and Democracy,"* we not only reflect on our country's journey, but also celebrate the role each of us plays in its continued growth.

It is a profound honour that this year's celebrations in our district will be graced by the presence of the President. This moment is a testament to the significance of our community, our work, and our collective contributions.

Let this be a moment of pride, but also of renewed purpose. Just as our nation has overcome challenges through unity and resilience, so too do we overcome daily hurdles—together. Your dedication, your passion, and your belief in a better future make a real difference, not only within our organization but across the communities we serve.

As we commemorate Freedom Day, let's stand tall in the knowledge that we are part of something greater. Let's continue to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and shared responsibility in all we do.

7. Worker's Day

Workers' Day on May the 1st serves as a reminder of the vital role that workers play in shaping the nation's progress. It is a day to reflect on past achievements, acknowledge current challenges, and renew the commitment to building a fair and just society for all. As it emphasizes the collective strength and determination of workers in safeguarding the freedoms and democratic values achieved through years of struggle, it also calls for unity and resilience in addressing contemporary challenges and ensuring that the rights and dignity of workers continue to be upheld.

No Somlomo, akumelanga silwe, sibashaye njalo, hence, ngizosho the following to abasebenzi bethu: we pause to extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

You are the backbone of our communities—the ones who keep our streets clean, our parks green, our lights on, and our towns running. Whether rain or shine, early morning or late night, your work often goes unseen—but it is never unvalued. You do more than maintain infrastructure—you uphold dignity, safety, and progress for all citizens. And for that, we are truly thankful.

As we celebrate Workers' Day, may you take pride in the essential role you play, and may you feel the appreciation and respect you so deeply deserve.

Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your heart. Thank you for keeping our communities alive.

As I close Honourable Speaker, I quote from the book of Isaiah 41:13, which says “The road may be difficult, but God’s hand will never let you go. He will strengthen you with His unfailing love”.

Let me reiterate we are here to serve. We are accountable to the people who elected us. Let us lead with courage, integrity, and unity. So let our actions reflect the hopes of every citizen who looks to this Council for leadership. Let’s keep pushing boundaries, lifting each other and the institution higher and higher, striving for excellence together, the best is yet to come!

Thank you.