

**SPEECH BY COUNCILOR LERATO MALOKA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE CHEQUE BY AFGRI
TO THE JAMESON PARK COMMONAGE COMMUNITY TRUST
ON THE 20TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE JAMESON PARK
COMMUNITY HALL**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
COUNCILLOR BJ MODISAKENG
SPEAKER OF LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, COUNCILLOR
MARIA PHALA
WARD COUNCILLOR AND TRUSTEE, COUNCILLOR VANGILE
MADONSELA
CHIEF DIRECTOR OF LAND AFFAIRS, Ms RACHEL MSIMANGO
MANAGER OF THE SOUTH EASTERN REGION, DEPARTMENT
OF LAND AFFAIRS, MR PHOSTER SAMBO
DIRECTOR OF AFGRI, DR MOJI MOGARI
MEMBERS OF THE JAMESON PARK COMMONAGE
COMMUNITY TRUST
OFFICIALS FROM AFGRI
OFFICIALS FROM LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMAN**

Allow me to express our heartfelt greetings to all of you on this august occasion. The Council would like to usurp this opportunity to reflect on the importance of partnerships with the private sector to realize a better life for all as enshrined in the manifesto of the ruling party. Our commitment to the millennium development goals remains unwavering amid the phenomenon of global meltdown. As a result we have committed ourselves to growth and development.

Agriculture in as far as the Gauteng Agriculture Development Strategy is one of the key performance areas to such an extent that LLM is identified as one of the seven Agricultural hubs in the Gauteng Province. This implies that a potential for food security exists and most of our plans should be coined around this opportunity. Agricultural property is in abundance in the area. However its significance in as far as value-add is not adequately quantified. Land reform programmes are gaining momentum. The challenge exists among our farmers (emerging) to access finance for input costs. Being a developmental state, we have taken this as an important challenge to turn

our economy around by creating partnerships with the private sector and social partners.

The Jameson Park Commonage whose extent is approximately 1200 hectares was acquired through the Land Reform Programme to serve as an incubator for emerging farmers. 520 hectares is suitable for crop farming and the rest is grazing. The involvement of Afgri has made it possible to realize the development of entrepreneurs through agriculture in the area and as such the Council leased the piece of land under discussion to a group of people who were identified on the basis of the following criteria :-

- Unemployed
- Women
- Passion for agriculture
- Entrepreneurship
- Residence in South Africa and predominantly in LLM
- Youth

A support intervention was put together in the form of registering a trust on behalf of the beneficiaries. 520 hectares were leased to the trust for three years with the possibility of extension should such a need arise. Then Afgri was approached and were available to provide mentorship to the project. Without Afgri, the Council is conscious that amid challenges, this day would not be a reality. Key to the challenges in terms of the current model is the area of involvement actively on the part of the beneficiaries from the area of financial, administration, farming and overall involvement as opposed to relying on reports from Afgri. The Council takes note of these limitations and as we move on will take stock and address these imbalances. It would not be justified to conclude this input without harping on the trust and the manner it relates to the community so as to inculcate the culture of ownership and protection. One is aware that the yield would have surpassed the current one, were it not of wanting conduct from the culprits who reflected an attitude to repossess from their own. We know that hunger knows no law but it should not be informed by greed and lack of responsibility.

Let me also reflect that during the two seasons the trust has been in existence, tragedies have befallen us. Two members in the person of Mr Mbhele and Mr Sekhoto passed on. May their souls rest in peace. On the same note let us reflect on recent spate of losses of prominent citizens of the

country in the likes of Professor of Ezekiel Eskia Mphahlele, Mrs Nokwe, Doctor Miriam Z Makeba and recently in past weekend, the demise of two officials of Lesedi Local Municipality in the person of Mr Mabaso (the Executive Mayo`s bodyguard) and Mr Jabulani Hlongwane (employee in the electrical section of the department of Service Delivery). May the souls of the faithful who departed rest in peace.

We are aware that through our engagements with Afgri, there will not be any planting this season but we would like to assure you that as soon as the new model has been finalized and in fact as you design it, think of us and take our commitment to harness and take this partnership to celestial heights.

THANK YOU!