

**OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS BY MAYOR PANGWA TO THE
COUNCILLOR INDUCTION WORKSHOP HELD AT EAST LONDON ON 13 –
15 JUNE 2011.**

MR / MS FACILITATOR

COUNCIL SPEAKER

EXCO MEMBERS

CHIEF WHIP & WHIPPERY

COUNCILLORS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER & YOUR TEAM

OFFICIALS

LADIES & GENTLEMEN

It is my pleasure and humility that I take this opportunity of expressing a few words of opening and welcome to this strategic gathering of the Third Local Government term of office.

This is the induction workshop that seeks to orientate and acclimatize us with the tasks that lie ahead of us in terms of our mandate.

First and foremost I would like to express our gratitude to the electorate for giving us the mandate to take them out of the poverty trap by delivering services in a sustainable manner.

I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of all Councillors when I say the popular mandate of the electorate will never be taken for granted.

In fact I must remind my colleagues that upon your shoulders rest the aspirations of the people of Umzimvubu who are pinning their hopes on you to change their lives for the better.

Over the week end the masses of our people paid their last respects to one of the icons of our struggle for national liberation and social justice, the late Comrade Albertina Sisulu.

The late Comrade Sisulu dedicated the rest of her life to the cause of struggle to ensure that the system of apartheid is finally defeated and replaced with a democratic state where principle of universal adult suffrage under a common voters roll is guaranteed in the Constituion.

Yes, we are mourning the passing on of Cde Sisuslu, but it is also true that we are also celebrating the life and legacy that has brought about change in our country.

The late Cde Sisulu knew no life other than the African National Congress.

The late MASISULU had to endure all forms of oppression and misery during the dark days and held numerous leadership positions in order to advance the objectives of the revolution.

These include organizations like the ANC, ANC Womens League and the United Democratic Front (UDF)

In paying tribute to this daughter of the soil, Chief Zwelakhe Dalasile of the Qwati Tribe in Ngcobo had this to say, I quote, “... **I was impressed by the sacrifice made by the Sisulu couple in their quest for liberation.**”

So when they visited my Great Place in 2004, I gave them a piece of land,” close quote.

May her soul rest in peace. Once more, may we rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of this Revolutionary of our time.

I want to commend the management for good work in preparing for this workshop.

I was made aware of the fact that part of the induction also includes presentations on the current policies.

According to the programme, Councillor Qasha is going to give an outline of the objectives of the Induction.

This has made my work much easier. However, I must stress though that the induction workshop is of strategic approach in order to form a good start before you actually begin your work.

In fact, beginning is a good place to start. And today we are beginning our collective endeavours in order to start the implementation of our manifesto.

In this regard I would like to remind my colleagues in the opposition benches that our manifesto is now the official policy agenda of council for the next five years.

We will not hesitate to implement that policy statement because it was on the basis of it that we were elected into office overwhelmingly.

Also to be dealt with over these next few days is the question of how the local sphere of government operates as well as the issues of IDP

and roles and responsibilities of us as Councillors and other matters related thereto.

Mr Facilitator allow me to say that on 2-4 December 2010 there was a Policy Conference held at Port Edward for purpose of actually conducting a review of the Municipal Policies.

Consequent to the Conference, the Council Meeting of 15 December 2010 adopted all the Reviewed Policies by a Resolution.

Now, today we are going to be introduced to and workshoped on those policies.

In this regard I want to believe that these policies and many other aspects of our programme over these few days will provide us with a strategic direction and the necessary guidance at all material times in our quest to discharge our duties in the service of our people.

I am saying this because these policies must help us provide effective and efficient service delivery.

I have also noted that this Induction takes place in the context of the youth month and the youth of South Africa continue to play a critical role in the process of reconstruction and development of our country.

This means that the struggles of the 1976 generation will never be in vain.

In taking further the aspects of Community Participation we are soon going to embark on a vigorous programme of action for purposes of establishing new Ward Committees in all the 27 Wards of our municipality.

Already, the officials in my office are in consultation with their provincial counterparts with a view to solicit the necessary documentation in pursuit of this task.

In this regard, Ward Councillors in particular and the PR Councillors in general must be “**combat ready**” for this coming reality in the name of Good Governance and Public Participation.

With those words I invite you all to utilize your stay over these few days fruitfully and effectively.

Please ensure that there is maximum participation right through.

You are all welcome and I thank you very much!!