Good day,

Sanibonani,

Dumelang.

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

Speaker, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to the people of Midvaal who participated in the 2026 Local Government Elections by exercising their right to vote.

We thank you for fulfilling your civic duty and taking an active role in shaping the future of our municipality.

We must never take the right to vote for granted.

It is a hard-won democratic right, secured through the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom and democracy.

I also wish to thank the people of Midvaal for entrusting each and every councillor in this Chamber with a fresh mandate to serve.

Our communities have placed their trust in us, and we have a responsibility to honour that trust by serving them with integrity.

Speaker, on behalf of my political party, I wish to extend a special word of appreciation to the residents of Midvaal who have once again

entrusted the Democratic Alliance with an overwhelming majority of 61.9%.

This renewed mandate reflects the confidence residents have in the work we have done and the direction in which we are taking Midvaal.

Through their vote, they have called on us to continue building on our legacy of progress, good governance and excellent service delivery.

We do not take this for granted.

We will continue ensuring that Midvaal remains a municipality where progress is visible, and service delivery makes a meaningful difference in people's lives.

POLITICAL TOLERANCE AND CONDEMNATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Speaker, I wish to commend all political parties and candidates in Midvaal who participated in the Local Government Elections for conducting their campaigns in a peaceful and respectful manner.

We have demonstrated what a mature and tolerant multiparty democracy should look like.

I am pleased that in Midvaal, the election period was not characterised by political violence or intimidation.

Although we may stand on opposite sides of the political spectrum, we must never lose sight of our shared responsibility to uphold democratic values.

We must always respect one another and protect the right of every individual to participate freely in our democracy.

Political differences must never become a reason for hostility, intimidation or violence.

We must never allow political intolerance to take root in our communities or become part of Midvaal's political culture.

Speaker, while we acknowledge the peaceful conduct of the elections in Midvaal, we cannot overlook the tragic loss of life experienced elsewhere in our country.

Allow me to pay tribute to a friend and colleague, Metsimaholo Councillor Michael Thulani "Mike" Mbana, who was shot and killed at his home in Sasolburg ahead of the elections.

Councillor Mbana was among several councillor candidates who lost their lives in politically related killings in the lead-up to the elections.

It is unacceptable that anyone should lose their life simply for choosing to contest an election and for exercising their constitutional right to serve their community through public office.

No political ambition, disagreement or difference of opinion can ever justify the taking of another person's life.

We must condemn political violence, intimidation and the killing of political candidates in the strongest possible terms.

Such acts have no place in a constitutional democracy and must never be normalised or tolerated.

We hope that the South African Police Service and other law enforcement agencies will apprehend those responsible for the political killings and bring them to justice.

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL

Speaker, allow me to extend a warm welcome to both the returning and newly elected Councillors.

Colleagues, welcome to Midvaal.

A municipality that has consistently set the benchmark for good governance and excellent service delivery.

We are proud to be an example of what is possible when strong political leadership, committed administration and a shared vision for service excellence come together.

Our communities have entrusted us with the responsibility of representing their interests.

It is a responsibility we must never take lightly.

I am often asked what makes Midvaal different and how we continue to get things right.

My answer is simple: we have public representatives with the political will to get things done.

Councillors who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves, get involved and do the work.

Councillors who engage with residents, listen to their concerns, contribute to solutions and remain accessible to the communities they serve.

Councillors who understand the importance of their oversight role and are prepared to hold both the Executive and the Administration accountable.

I hope that this new Council will build on the foundation that has been laid by those who came before and continue on the trajectory of progress and service excellence.

Those who served before you have set a high standard, and the responsibility now rests with you to uphold it and take it even further.

Our collective ambition must be to make Midvaal an even more prosperous, inclusive and accountable municipality.

We must never become complacent or allow the progress we have made to slip.

Instead, we must continuously challenge ourselves to do better, work harder and deliver even more for our communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS DURING THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL TERM

Speaker, this newly elected Council is stepping into a legacy built on good governance, sound financial management and service excellence.

You inherit a municipality that has worked hard to establish a culture of accountability, performance and excellent service delivery.

A municipality with twelve consecutive clean audits.

A highly decorated municipality that has received numerous accolades and awards for good governance.

One of the few municipalities without outstanding debt to Eskom and Rand Water.

A municipality that continues to invest in infrastructure development to improve services and support its growth.

A municipality that has invested over R18 million in community safety initiatives.

We also established a dedicated Law Enforcement Unit to protect communities and assist SAPS in combating crime.

We invested more than R30 million in firefighting and emergency response equipment.

We allocated over R60 million towards strengthening the Traffic Department's operational capacity.

In partnership with Heineken Beverages, we opened our very first Midvaal Skills Development Centre.

To grow our local economy, we supported more than 600 businesses through training and business development initiatives.

We facilitated developments valued at over R54 million.

We created more than 17 000 job opportunities through EPWP and capital projects.

We invested more than R90 million in expanding our municipal fleet.

We invested R13.9 million in municipal parks, increasing the number of developed and upgraded parks from 12 to 22.

We invested more than R81 million in municipal libraries.

We invested more than R190 million in road development, upgrading and maintenance.

We electrified 453 fully subsidised housing units in Savanna City and completed the electrification of more than 1 600 households in Sicelo Extensions 4 and 5.

We also implemented development programmes including the Mayoral Youth Summits, Forgotten Generation, Mayoral Student Financial Aid Programme and Back to School Campaign.

We partnered with stakeholders to provide numerous learnerships in Production Technology, Cellphone Repair and ICT Training, and Construction.

Speaker, all this work was done to advance service delivery and improve the daily lives of our residents.

It is now the responsibility of this Council to build on these achievements and take the municipality forward.

OUR FIVE MAYORAL UNDERTAKINGS THAT WILL GUIDE OUR PRIORITIES

Speaker, we have recommitted to the people of Midvaal to take the municipality to the next level.

We committed to achieving and improving the following five Mayoral Undertakings:

Firstly, we are committed to **delivering excellent services for all** by strengthening the provision of reliable water, sanitation, electricity, roads, waste management and other essential services

We will do so while building on the standard of service delivery Midvaal is known for.

Secondly, **we will continue investing in safety and security for all** by expanding our Law Enforcement Unit, increasing CCTV surveillance, strengthening partnerships with law enforcement agencies and intensifying crime-prevention initiatives.

Thirdly, **we will focus on growing the economy through infrastructure development** to attract investment, create jobs, reduce unemployment and further position Midvaal as Gauteng's leading investment destination.

Fourthly, **we remain committed to creating opportunities for all** by strengthening public participation and ensuring that our residents are heard and actively involved in shaping the future of their communities.

Lastly, **we will focus on building a smart and innovative municipality by modernising our systems**, embracing technology and simplifying processes to improve efficiency, transparency and the overall experience of residents, businesses and investors.

CONCLUSION

Speaker, the work ahead of us is great, but it is not insurmountable.

It will be challenging at times, but it is not beyond our abilities.

It will demand complete dedication and devotion from each and every one of us.

However, we must consider it an honour, because our presence here today is a testament to the trust that our people have placed in all of us.

I therefore call upon each and every one of you here today: let us work hard to improve the lives of the residents of Midvaal.

Let us uplift our communities and leave them in a better position than we found them.

In my ten years as a public representative, I have learned one important lesson: our people are willing to work with us.

They are willing to collaborate with us.

They simply want to be heard.

They want their concerns attended to.

They want their streetlights fixed.

They want their garbage collected.

They want their areas and communities clean.

They want running water.

They want a safe environment in which they can raise their children, build their families and live without fear.

They want opportunities for growth and development.

They want an environment supported by the infrastructure that allows communities and businesses to thrive.

These are not unreasonable demands.

These are the basic expectations of the people we have been entrusted to serve.

So let us deliver on the promises we have made.

Let us never grow tired of serving.

Let us never become arrogant in our positions.

Let us remember that leadership is not about the positions we occupy, the titles we carry or the power we hold.

It is about the lives we touch and the communities we uplift.

The task is before us.

The people are counting on us.

Let us get to work!

I thank you.