

Issue 5
1st Quarter 2012



AMAVA

The catalyst for change

Emfuleni Local Municipality ANC Caucus Newsletter

REMEMBERING JOE SLOVO



PROFILING: SIMON MOFOKENG



TRIBUTE TO JASON MKHWANE



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

Content:

Chief Whip's Corner	1
Education	2
Councillors 2012	3
Tribute to Jason Mkhwane	4
Why On Me?	6
Whippery	7
Dust in Emfuleni	8
Overview On Glenburn Lekgotla	11
Remembering Joe Slovo	13
Profiling: Simon Mofokeng	15
Staff in the Chief Whips' Office	18



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Chief Whip's Corner

I wish to note that we are starting the year on a very positive note and a jubilant mood as we remembered the life of Joe Slovo on the 6th of January, a stalwart of its kind, a strategist and a tactician of marvel. Two days after that all roads lead to Mangaung as we were going to celebrate 100 years of ANC's existence as a liberation movement wherein the president gave a program of Action for 2012 through the NEC January 8 statement which pondered on the following:

- Discipline within the movement
- Revitalizing grass root structures i.e. branches to be able to mobilize communities behind these gigantic programs of the movement which are guided by 5 pillars of the movement in transforming the lives of our people and the land in benefit of its own people
- Renewing our determination to build a South Africa founded on the principles of Freedom Charter and our Democratic Constitution
- Building a sound and an enduring education and training system
- Addressing the Class question i.e. race, gender and economy

The president went further to invite the South African population into a dialogue about the future of our land 'Vision

2030' that as society we make proper inputs as to morally, economically and politically how do we envisage the future of our country and its people.

These issues as mentioned above give indication that indeed this shall be a busy year for every inhabitant of this land. This also applies to our own caucus as it also went to its Lekgotla Last year December in the East of Johannesburg to ponder on the annum gone and devise new strategies for the annum coming on how to change the lives of our people for the better and how to ensure service delivery by the ANC led municipality is accelerated.

The caucus has then taken progressive resolutions that extensively respond to our societal challenges and it is through the One Day Makgotla's that are in progress that this caucus of Emfuleni Local municipality will



then see to it that what we had last year is not a talk-shop but rather a work-shop that should transcend its theory into practice.

The Emfuleni Local Municipality ANC caucus wishes to extend its gratitude to the Matric class of 2011 for their performance as it managed to improve from what they were over the years. We are indeed elated by your act of dedication and this goes also to teachers who ensured that they invest their time in class not leaving behind parents who are gradually realizing the importance of being part of their children's educational lives. This shows that ANC was correct when it said working together we can do more.

Finally the ANC caucus in ELM congratulates the SACP for having gone to their 5th congress on the 11-12th February, We further congratulate the leadership collective that emerged and as a vanguard of the working class and the poor we derive hope in you meeting from time to time analyzing society so as to draft scientific programs that shall respond to impacting ideological and class questions.

**DE Tshabalala
Chief Whip**

Education

By Thami Mgudlwa

Following our previous article in which we highlighted a number of challenges that need utmost attention regarding the state of performance in some of the schools (Sebokeng West District), it becomes important that we make reflections on the results.

Firstly, Office of the Chief Whip wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 2011 for having performed well. The credit goes to all the learners who spent sleepless nights, hardworking and teacher's commitment and dedicating sufficient time in realizing this achievement. The department of education has always been central in providing leadership with regards to realistic programme of action which we can use as a measuring tool against the results. We must at the same rate thank the most important people in this regard, parents who continue to play a paramount role in the education of their children.

Parent participation in school governing bodies (SGB's) is vital; it is for this reason that we applaud the role played by our SGB's towards the realization of this outcome. The SGB's are charged with the responsibility of ensuring improvement in the quality of education, good governance, advancing the democratic transformation of our society and combating racism, sexism and all other forms of unfair discrimination, intolerance and the building of social cohesion.

On Friday (17/2/12) the Minister of Basic education stressed the importance of this structures, she said "Schools with effective and efficient SGB members secure greater success than those with limited parental and community involvement"

In a sense the minister was highlighting the significance of participating in this bodies and reminding us that the SGB elections

are around the corner and it becomes the responsibility of every parent to avail her/himself for nominations, attend meetings and actively participate in the elections, of critical importance is careful selection of parents into the SGB.

The SGB elections will take place in all the schools across the province during the month of March.

It is a worrying factor that almost seventeen years into our democracy, South African schools are still grappling with the challenges of electing effective people into school governing bodies. These challenges need to be confronted in order to ensure that communities have an understanding that schools are a societal responsibility.

It stands to reason that accountable, efficient, passion driven and progressive SGB is what any person reasonably expect and that there is a consequent duty on the part of those elected to ensure fairness and responsibility in reporting at all material times.

Of the reported 39 underperformed schools during 2010, only seven performed below the expected percentage (60%) namely, Botebo-Tsebo, Khutlo-Tharo, Mahareng, Moshate, Sizanane, Tokelo and Bophelong.

Department of education has painted a bright picture in that underperforming schools have significantly improved. In our previous article we reported our discomfort with the five high risk schools namely; Boitumelo, Setjhaba Sohle, Thuto Tiro, Mopholosi and Tharabollo Secondary schools. We can confirm that of the five high risk schools, four has done well; Boitumelo 70%, Tharabollo 74.88%, Setjhaba-Sohle 69.51% and Mopholosi with 60.52%. Regrettably Thuto-Tiro has performed extremely badly by 38.67% from 56.10% in



2010. We equally applaud the Sedibeng West District – Education, with all the intervention strategies put in place. The geographical clustering of schools into camps focused on specific subjects has indeed yielded results, thanks to Mr. Siphos Chanza and the collective for the hard work and commitment in this respect.

We have two schools in the Sedibeng West District that have performed under 40%, in a sense they are in the ICU, Thuto-Tiro and Sizanane. Although principals of these schools were summoned to account by the HOD (Province) and the intervention at the level of the Province; fact of the matter is that these two schools have been performing below 60% in the last two years. This calls for decisive action and leadership. Leadership is more art than science. The principles of leadership are constant, but the application changes with every leader and every situation.

Once again best of luck to our outstanding achievers in their registrations, i.e. (universities, colleges etc). The previous year's results must be motivating enough for all of your higher education years; we are confident that you will do our

district proud by passing with flying colours and never drop out.

It is a worrying factor that we still need more higher institutions in our country, especially technical colleges that will help in alleviating skill shortages in the country (vocation & technical training) but we have confidence in our government that these issues will be properly addressed.

We also join hands with the Minister of Higher education, Dr Blade Nzimande that a new flexible and user friendly registration process will go a long way in avoiding endless queues and stampede that has claimed a life of an innocent mother who wanted a bright future for her child at University of Johannesburg.

We encourage parents as well as students to also apply in time so as to ensure that they don't become victims of unwanted accidents during registrations.

To those who did not do well; it is not the end of the road, in fact is the beginning of a journey that needs commitment and hard working. We call upon you to invest most of your time and energy in doing well in your second attempt, remember **“Failure happens all the time, it happens every day in practice and what makes you better is how you react to it. The secret of success is constancy to purpose”**

On the same breath invite those who did well to also help in this regard so that we all contribute towards a caring society with the objective of eradicating illiteracy and building learned future leaders today.

The development of a positive attitude is the first conscious step towards becoming an effective leader. The successful leadership cannot be constructed without positive attitude as a crucial building block.

- Our attitude determines our approach to life

- Our attitude determines our relationships with people
- Our attitude is often the only difference between success and failure
- Our attitude at the beginning of a task will affect the outcome more than anything else
- Our attitude can turn problems into blessings

Although we are still faced with the challenge of lack of discipline from some educators, coming to work under the influence of alcohol and undesired mode of dressing we are convinced that working together we can do much more in changing the conduct and outlook of our education system. We also acknowledge the role that the Department of Community Safety is playing in our schools and the impact Community Policing Forum members are making in their different areas of deployments, Indeed movements in and out of school premises are closely monitored and Safety is the order of the day.

We join hands with the South Africans in celebrating the “National Teaching Awards” during the month of February, which is in its thirteenth year. This event is very important in that it reflects on the outstanding work that educators do on daily basis; the immense contribution to different professions and continued commitment to changing the outlook of education and shaping the nation in many respects.

As we acknowledge and pay tribute to our dedicated and hardworking educators it becomes imperative that we continue to provide support and become active participants in all learning and teaching processes.

In conclusion, we invite all stakeholders to be in the forefront with regard to improving the quality of education thus creating conducive environment for learning and teaching. The back to school campaign is important and must be supported at all costs.



Councillors 2012

Councillors omitted in last edition:



Cllr. M.R. Mtambo
Ward 2



Cllr. M.T. Ramashamole
PR

Tribute to Jason Mkhwane



Jason Mkhwane



released from the office and also to bid him farewell after the great work done.

Briefly tell us about yourself?

Birthplace

I was born in a Rural Area (stateng sa Matebesi) in Middelpruit near Kroonstad. I was born on the 06th August and I still have few years to spend in the ANCYL. My parents moved to Evaton when I was still very young and attended pre - school at Lerato near Khunoana. I grew up in Evaton, one of the oldest townships in the Country, rich in history and heritage.

Parents

In the family of nine, I am the lastborn son of the late Mpiyakhe Jacob and Rose Ntja (the top Dog) Mkhwane. My father has an identical twin brother and culturally I still have a father and he resides in the Free State.

What characterises you

Ability to think and power to do things that will change my life and lives of others for the better and most importantly the responsibility that goes with that

Ethos/Principles

Respect and Discipline will take you further.

On a lighter note' how is Marriage life treating you thus far?

Hahaha! Marriage life is possible. I am gaining wait daily.

I understand you were the first young councillor at the age of 25 in the region, if that's true, what motivated you to become a community leader at that age?

In fact I was aged 22 when local government elections took place in the year millennium

and this made me the youngest ward councillor in the country at that time.

The community and some cde's used to refer to me as "Umtwana we Skolo" because of the fact that I was a student attending at Vaal Triangle Technikon (now VUT). My motivation started in 1997 when I was elected the chairperson of Evaton West ANCYL sub-branch which covered Beverly hills and later in the years, in preparation for the 2000 local government elections, the branch was demarcated in two wards i.e. 24 and 28.

The leadership and membership of the youth league at that time led amongst others by Rhau Mphahlele, Chita Rapapali, Koko Maphohosha, Esther Mazibuko, Bias Ntombela, Philly Rasemetsa and many other comrades had a strong view that young people must lead. The mobilised all ANC members behind this view, this is where I also learnt and taught mobilization skills, I learnt from the comrades and the branch nominated me in

ward 28 and Esther Mazibuko in ward 24 as ward candidates. Due to ANC processes Esther Mazibuko could not make it in the final list approved by the ANC – May her soul rest in peace and she will always be remembered!

I gained enough experience in my term as the youngest ward councillor and with it I will spare it for future generation. I reconnected and gained exposure with the rich history of the Vaal. During my term I served in various committees of council and had to interact with experienced councillors and comrades, amongst others; Jeff Mokoro, Lord McCamel, Sello Hlanyane, Sebei Motsoeneng, Jacob Mkhwane...May their souls rest in peace.

How was it like working as a Manager in the Chief Whip office when you were a former councillor?

I started working in the office of the chief whip as the Senior Administrator: Caucus. The staff complement was only me and the office secretary, Ausi Alinah Moerane. I have always enjoyed working with Ausi Alinah and the chief whip by then it was Thulani Kunene. After making amendments to the organogram in strengthening the office of the chief whip, I became the Manager and we filled two positions of Senior Administrators: Caucus.

How was it like establishing the infrastructure for the proper running of the office?

It was tough because in the beginning I was expected to service all 12 study groups including to provide administrative support to different caucuses of other political parties. One of the tough moments was when I was tasked with the

drafting of a caucus multi-party policy which was to allow budget spending in the office of the council whip. There was no legislation that spoke about the Chief Whip and it complicated activities in the office because I still remember my first heavy responsibility was to organise the 1stANC caucus lekgotla and argument that was raised is that there is no policy on how to spend Council approved budget for office of the Chief Whip.

What did it take?

A lot of consultation within a short period of time, a lot of resistance because the concept "Chief Whip" was still new in the local municipalities and because it was new it threatened and confused many people.

Did it finally pay off?

Yes it did. The Caucus of the ANC placed itself at the centre stage to drive the vehicle of transformation in the municipality. We developed effective systems and many municipalities learned from us; including Buffalo City, Sekhukhune District Municipality, City of Cape Town caucus and many municipalities in the Western Cape Province.

What are the challenges that you faced as the political administrator, as you had to make sure that the resolutions of caucus find expression in the administration?

IDP must be politically driven and not

administratively driven. ANC manifesto was adopted a policy document to inform all other programs in the municipality. Synergy was always a challenge stuck between administrators and politicians. However, resolutions of caucus always found expression through study groups and caucus.

What are the highlights of your life as a manager in the office of the Chief Whip for having half a decade?

Development of policies and systems was a major highlight of my life as the manager in the office of the chief whip. These included amongst others, the following;

- Party funding policy
- PMS system
- Quarterly and whippy monthly reporting
- Bench Marking Visits
- Capacity building of councillors
- Process plan for Caucus Makgotla in the Districts

In Volume 1, Issue 3 of Amava I saw the picture of you shaking hands with former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda, how can you express your experience?

Hilarity, bliss and ecstasy could be best to describe me that day. After the interact with Mr President It gave me courage and hope that Africa one day will

Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Jason Mkhwane in Zambia



change its bits and dance to a new song that will bring hope to many millions who are living in poverty because of oppression. Young people are charged with the heavy responsibility to carry on with the legacy and resilience of Kenneth Kaunda, Nelson Mandela, Julius Nyerere, Samora Machel, Marcelino Dos Santos, Sam Nujoma in building a united, democratic and prosperous society in Africa. During this Visit in SADC countries I had an opportunity to shake hands with Sam Nujoma of Namibia, senior leadership of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Party of Revolution) of Tanzania, Marcelino Dos Santos of Mozambique.

What is your advice to the current manager and his colleagues moving forward?

Discipline and Respect of their work will take the office of the chief whip further.

You were the Chairperson of the ANCYL what can you say to the young aspiring cadres?

Understanding of history, theory, patience and good practice will help us to grow and mature into future leaders.

Do you ever look back and say you regret on a particular decision you took as a manager in the office of the Chief Whip?

I always consulted in my decision making and I also received support.

Would you advice your kids to follow in your footsteps politically?

No. In order for them to succeed they must study – In order for them to be successful they must study harder and remember to plough back and feed the country with other skills. I have represented them well politically.



Why On Me?

When they cut short of my life from untamed jungle
Transformed I was to be a useful commodity of all
With sharp instruments crying blue on me
I was distributed to all length and breadth of the country
They looked at me and for the sake of those who do not see
Then they raised their fists
They shout, "Freedom in our life time!!"
Amandla! ngawethu! Mayibuye! I Afrika!

When calling unity of African people you wrote on me
When forming trade unions fighting exploitation
you used me
When forming communist party to write manifesto
you used me,
even those stealing the land of indigenous people
in the name of law they used me,
Tax laws from Bambata era was written on me
Writing the bloody oppressive apartheid laws on me

The black child refused to be tamed and wrote program of action on me.
Terrorism act was a law written on me and freedom fighters and lovers jailed.
They used me to craft Freedom Charter and some peeped jail for a while
women wrote on me,
"Wathint' abafazi! wathint' imbokotho,
uzakufa. Another black child was suspicious
and used me to cut his umbilical chord,
burning stinking dom pass, It was all over me when they were short in
Sharpeville

When they banned people's organizations with a black ink
Hard decision of fighting back and
no surrender program was

Written, the life sentence on people's leaders and being sent in
Robben Island. It was written on me.

Preparing negotiations after mass action of ungovernability
Was crafted on me. The new constitution of the country and new democratic
Government, all organizations are taking progressive resolutions year in
And out, again and again they take resolutions, but they do not
Implement them. They stark me in their bags they have received in
congresses, fighting their position and even misinterpreted what is written

By now you know who am I
They used me for photo copy machines
They used me for printing
They even name me with different names
Yes, it is me yours truly who is everywhere in your offices
I'm still carried unimplemented resolutions of yester years
No more, again accepting brutal exploitation of you
I refused to be used by armchair revolutionaries

WRITING ON MY NAME - Thobile Maso

ANC Whippyery

The Caucus which set on the 7th December 2011 affirmed the following changes by the Chief Whip on Whippyery. The following changes were effected:

1. Cllr TD Mkandawire	1. Cllr TS Mochawe
2. Cllr T Moiloa	2. Cllr KM Mahlase
3. Cllr NS Tshabalala	3. Cllr Hlongwane
4. Cllr AN Khoali	4. Cllr G Tibane
5. Cllr TS Mochawe (Whip of MPAC)	5. Cllr NJ Mooi



Chief, E.D. Tshabalala
ANC Chief Whip and Chairperson
of the Caucus



Cllr. A.N. Khoali
LED



Cllr. R.J. Lehlake
Public Transport,
Roads



Cllr. D. Malisa
Health & Social Development



Cllr. B.P. Maseko
Public Safety



Cllr. N.P. Matsei
Petitions



Cllr. T.D. Mkandawire
Gender Youth & Disability



Cllr. T. Moiloa
Waste



Cllr. J.S. Mochawe
MPAC



Cllr. A.M. Morolong
Corporate Services &
Administration



Cllr. K.W. Mphuthing
Finance



Cllr. P. Ndindwa
Housing



Cllr. L.S. Ngubane
Land a& Tribunal



Cllr. M.M. Nthebe
Infrastructure, Electricity, Water
& Sanitation



Cllr. N.S. Tshabalala
Sports, Recreation, Arts
& Culture & Libraries

Dust in Emfuleni

In Sesotho they say 'ho thunya lerole motseng wa Emfuleni' this is as a result of the work we see happening in our area and indeed it is breathtaking and magnificent to mention. In every corner there are people doing work to beautify our area. The Mayor Greta Hlongwane did mention in her inaugural address held in Wilberforce that she is not going to say a lot but she will do a lot. This was evidently seen by the submissions that were made during the launch of the 100 days program and people thought it was a wish list which can never be attained but it was explained that council is not aiming at program that will last for three months only but they are looking at programs that will be a long lasting legacy.

As we speak Vanderbijlpark is very clean everyone can smell the breath of a fresh air due to the clean environment, there are people in orange all over the town and township and thanks to Indalo yethu program that is aimed at keeping our area clean. Again if you cast your eyes on our main roads there is grass cutting to create visibility on our roads and also to curb crimes caused by long grass in our areas. This is a twin task program that much as it is creating visibility it is at the same time beautifying our area of Emfuleni.

We have complained earlier as civil society about Delfos being a high accident zone to an extent of proposing the installation of traffic lights at the Bophelong intersection. It has been a struggle as there are networks beneath the ground and secondly

the road is a provincial road. It was after a long stride and dedication of leadership that we now have traffic lights being installed at that intersection.

When you take drive using Golden Highway just after the Evaton plaza sure as you cast your eyes deep in Mkhalele as it is popularly known you would not stop to admire the beauty of the area brought by the beautiful park constructed in that area, a state of the art indeed the same goes to the park constructed in zone 11 which remain a haven in Emfuleni wherein society can just go and have tranquility without having to drive miles away from the township.

The same goes with our roads, there is a program in place of resealing our roads to close all these pothole that end up costing motorists a fortune, it has started from North going to South, the streets are day at night as a result of street lighting, you can bet that you are Miami whilst in Vanderbijl at night. Two thousand household have benefitted from the allocation of houses in the space of two years and there is still more to come in ensuring that we are a shack free area.

We will be committing a punishable offence if I can not mention that there are state of the art precincts in our area of Emfuleni which aim at creating a one stop shop service provision for our people, the first one being in Mafatsana, Evaton fire station and Sharpeville. All these are deliverables that were done in the past three years with the Sharpeville hall awaiting handover

to its community. Ka nnete tema eya bonahala and all of these can go in vain if as community we will not derive jealousy from them and guard them with our hearts and souls.

These are things aimed at beautifying our areas and as a result boost the investor confidence in the area of Emfuleni in an endeavor to create more jobs as to ignite the economy. There is much happening we can surely go to town about all the projects happening in our area which makes one to be proud to belong in Emfuleni the ANC led municipality. This has been a great stride but if it was not for the working together with our communities it would not find expression hence we still reiterate that working together we can do more.

This then signifies the call for all civilians to pay their dues in terms of the municipal services rendered to them. Let us not hide behind our parents who are not working whilst we are working and not pay the municipal services but let us be patriotic enough to pay services so that all; this great work can continue as we stand to benefit from the dues that we pay to the municipality.



Dust in Emfuleni



Overview On Glenburn Lekgotla

Overview On Glenburn Lekgotla

The Office of the Chief Whip held its 1st Caucus Lekgotla after Local Government Elections at Glenburn Hotel & Conference Centre from the 27th – 29th November 2011. The ACTIVIST CAUCUS came at a time after the ANC won the Local Government Elections and preparing towards the centenary of the ANC, hence the theme **“Building an Activist Caucus towards the Centenary of the ANC”**. It was the first experience for new and young councillors who have been voted as ward and PR councillors in government to have to undergo such a magnificent type of a gathering in pursuit of generating new ideas and sharing experiences.

As the saying goes the old and young never agree, but the ANC took a bold decision on **“Generational Mix”** as a matter of principle to have young and old serving in national, provincial and regional structures of the movement. The same principle applied in our council as we have both young and old deployed as Ward and PR councillors. The positive spirit that prevailed at this Lekgotla must yield positive results in addressing issues of service delivery.

In his address the Chief Whip of the Council Cllr. Eric Tshabalala reflected on the 100 years of the formation of the ANC established under the stewardship of Langalibalele John Dube. He noted that the

struggle against racism, sexism, ecological challenges and pursuing economic freedom and land redistribution is not over yet. He further went on to give praise to our heroes and heroines of our movement who also played part in the struggle in pursuit of a better life and equal opportunities.

The Chief Whip further emphasized that this Lekgotla should take note that it's not just an ordinary caucus but an activist caucus that is characterized by the following elements.

- o Bringing unity and cohesion amongst ANC cadres in the council.
- o Its decisions bind unless vetoed by the ANC upper structure.
- o It should keep constant communication with the masses of our people where they live, work and can be found.
- o Prioritize regular door to door work.
- o Work with structures of the ANC to mobilize social forces around the ANC programs.
- o Everything should go through caucus.
- o Provide an administrative support to programs of the ANC.

He further noted the following 'As we gathered here we have to review and amend policies that are currently in place and also come up with other policies that will assist in furthering the commitments we

have made to our people. We still have other resolutions that need our attention and as we work in reviewing our policies, we also need to work on implementation of these policies'.

The event was equally graced by the Regional Chairperson of the ANC but in his capacity as the Mayor of the district. In his address as he addressed caucus on the roadmap towards the Metro, he urged the caucus that: 'Let us go out there to ensure that Sedibeng Region attains its objectives of becoming the Vaal Metropolitan River City on the roadmap it sets itself.

We will succeed in this road because we have developed our path. We are well aware of the challenges which we face. We will not wait until the change is forced on us making it difficult to chart our own destiny. We should be our own liberators. Our communities will be served better as we align all our planning for the future on the second Generation Growth and Development Strategy which will be finalized with you by the end of this year. Indeed he indicate that all this can be achieved by beginning to align our programs through IDP.

He gave a vote of confidence to the leadership of ELM as he noted progress in good governance in terms of audits. He further emphasized the need for local procurement by both business, labor and state In his

address he noted the following positive initiatives taken by ELM council:

- The establishment of a joint Community Safety Task team for the Single Authority
- Introduce smart meters to improve billing and financial sustainability
- Partner with communities, labor and business in order to address investment, employment and poverty challenges
- Create youth empowerment and enrichment programmes or development
- Accelerate basic service delivery which is at the coal face of the Municipality
- Upgrading of the Leeukuil and Rietspruit Waste Water Treatment Works through PPPs to promote economic development and investment
- Increase electricity network capacity to prevent outages
- Creation of entities towards the Single Authority
- NDPG and other township precinct development programmes

It was after the Regional Secretary cde Bheki Ngobese having given a clear political line of march on

- Discipline by councillors
- Their conduct in society and in council
- That councillors need to ensure that all ANC resolutions especially from the regional congress held at Emerald find expression in all council programs.
- The need to respect the office of the Chief Whip as is the office of ANC in council and anyone undermining the office undermines Senator Marks and

that caucus takes precedence over anything and as such must be given high priority.

- ANC to drive service delivery as we cannot condone the situation of our people living in socio-economic frustrations.

In his closing remarks he urged councillors to serve the people with pride and respect and that it is important that councillors report back to electorates on the mandate given to them.

Later that evening as it was a very busy day councillors were allowed to relax and get a lecture from the former Chief Whip who is now serving as the Regional Deputy Secretary cde Thulani Kunene, who went to town about explaining how did the office come about. He did mention that when they were in office the Chief Whip concept was still a foreign concept which was difficult to be grappled with as it brought about terror in the minds of the people as opposed to being an office that will serve as a resource to councillors.

To start with it did not have a budget to operate with hence it was difficult with the staff compliment of two in the office. Finally in his lecture he did indicate that the office can have highly qualified personnel with sophisticated tools of trade but the final arbiter remains with councillors as they have to politically drive all these programs that seek to transform our societies.

We finally had a lecture by Honorable member of the Provincial legislature member Kolisile Nkosiphendule who gave a

precise lecture on the Activist Caucus which it was for the first time councillors received such a lecture on the subject matter. He did mention that as and when Councillors get deployed in their respective wards caucus takes precedence and must be given first priority. This is where ANC discusses core issues pertaining governance and political management. Every councillor must belong to a caucus irrespective of area of designation within the council. In making our Study Groups function even more effectively we need to be disciplined, hardworking, arrive on time and participate in discussions. This activist lekgotla discourages members in attending study groups without participating. This is where issues relating to service delivery should be given thorough attention and hence these gatherings must emphasize on dealing specifically on challenges that our communities face. Our manifesto has already laid foundation in this regard by highlighting some of the challenges and achievements thus far.

They were indeed revived and energized as they departed to slumber for the day. It must be said that the Lekgotla was one of its kind as the program was long with the limited time as a resource.



Remembering Joe Slovo

Joe Slovo was born in a small Lithuanian village, Obelai, on 23 May 1926, to parents Woolf and Ann. When Slovo was nine years old the family moved to Johannesburg in South Africa, primarily to escape the increasing threat of anti-Semitism which gripped the Baltic States. He attended various schools until 1940, including the Jewish Government School, when he achieved Standard 6.

Slovo first encountered socialism in South Africa through his school-leaving job as a clerk for a pharmaceutical wholesaler. He joined the National Union of Distributive Workers and had soon worked his way up to the position of shop steward, where he was responsible for organizing at least one mass action. He joined the Communist Party of South Africa in 1942 and served on its central committee from 1953 (the same year its name was changed to the

South African Communist Party, SACP). Avidly watching the news of the Allied front (especially the way in which Britain was working with Russia) against Hitler, He volunteered for the South African forces during World War II and was subsequently active in the Springbok Legion, a radical ex-servicemen's league.

In 1946 Slovo enrolled at the University of Witwatersrand to study law, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Law, LLB. During his time as a student Slovo became more active in politics, and met his first wife, Ruth First, the daughter of the Communist Party of South Africa's treasurer, Julius First. Joe and Ruth were married in 1949. After college Slovo worked towards becoming an advocate and defense lawyer.

In 1950 both Slovo and Ruth First were banned under the Suppression of Communism Act - they were 'banned' from attending public meetings and could not be quoted in the press. They both, however, continued to work for the Communist Party and various anti-Apartheid groups.

As a founder member of the Congress of Democrats (formed in 1953) Slovo went on to serve on the national consultative committee of Congress Alliance and helped draft the Freedom Charter. As a

result Slovo, along with 155 others, was arrested and charged with high treason.

Slovo was released with a number of others only two months after the start of the Treason Trial. The charges against him were officially dropped in 1958. He was arrested and detained for six months during the State of Emergency which followed the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, and later represented Nelson Mandela on charges of incitement. The following year Slovo was one of the founders of Umkhonto weSizwe, MK (the armed wing of the ANC).

In 1963, just before the Rivonia arrests, on instructions from the SACP and ANC, Slovo fled South Africa. He spent twenty-seven years in exile in London, Maputo (Mozambique), Lusaka (Zambia), and various camps in Angola. In 1966 Slovo attended the London School of Economics and gained his Master of Law, LL.M.

In 1969 Slovo was appointed to the ANC's revolutionary council (a position he held until 1983, when it was dissolved). He helped draft strategy documents and was considered the ANC's main theoretician. In 1977 Slovo moved to Maputo, Mozambique, where he created a new ANC headquarters and from where he masterminded a large number of MK operations in South Africa. Whilst there Slovo recruited a young couple, Helena Dolny, an agricultural economist, and her husband Ed Wethli, who had been working in Mozambique since 1976. They were encouraged to travel into South Africa to undertake 'mappings' or reconnaissance trips.



Joe Slovo

In 1982 Ruth First was killed by a parcel-bomb. Slovo was accused in the press of complicity in his wife's death - an allegation which was eventually proved unfounded and Slovo was awarded damages. In 1984 Slovo married Helena Dolny - her marriage to Ed Wethli had ended. (Helena was in the same building when Ruth First was killed by a parcel bomb). That same year Slovo was asked by the Mozambican government to leave the country, in accordance with its signing of the Nkomati Accord with South Africa. In Lusaka, Zambia, in 1985 Joe Slovo became first white member of the ANC National Executive Council, he was appointed general-secretary of South African Communist Party in 1986, and chief-of-staff of the MK in 1987.

Following the remarkable announcement by President FW de Klerk, in February 1990, of the unbanning of the ANC and SACP, Joe Slovo returned to South Africa. He was a key negotiator between various anti-Apartheid groups and the ruling National Party, and was personally responsible for a 'sunset clause' which led to the power sharing Government of National Unity, GNU.

Following a bout of ill health in 1991 he stepped down as general-secretary of SACP, only elected as SACP chairperson in December 1991 (Chris Hani replaced him as general-secretary).

In South Africa's first multi-racial elections in April 1994, Joe Slovo was appointed by the ANC to be the housing Minister in the GNU, a position he served under until his death from Leukaemia on



Mr Joe Slovo and Mr Nelson Mandela

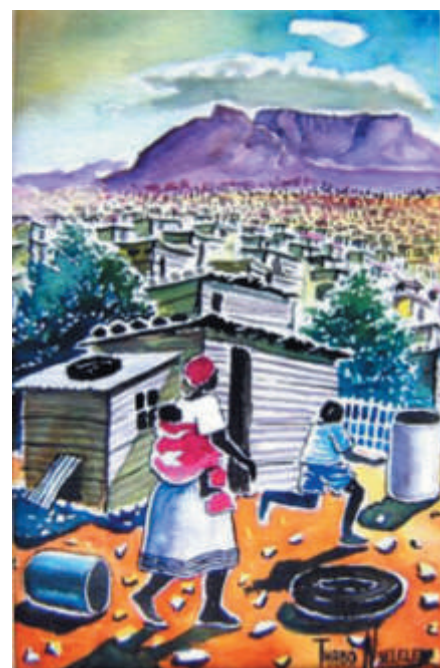
6 January 1995. Cde Nelson Mandela in the funeral of Joe Slovo in 1995 had this to say about him.

'Though the defenders of apartheid sought to obliterate his memory, the struggling people knew that he was an effective and skilful MK Chief of Operations; they knew that he was a loved and respected MK Chief of Staff; they knew that he planned and inspired many special operations of the people's army that shook the foundations of the apartheid establishment. They knew too that he was at the core of collectives that drafted many Strategy and Tactics documents of the movement.

The most central factor in his approach to struggle on any front was the understanding of the political situation, the balance of forces and thus the approaches necessary to advance that struggle. Thus he was able to appreciate changes in the objective conditions and initiate discussions on changes to the tactics to be applied.

He knew when to compromise. Yet he never compromised his principles. He was a militant. Yet a militant who knew how to plan, assess concrete situations and emerge with rational solutions to problems'.

In remembering his life the on the 6th January 2012 the SACP under the stewardship of Blade Nzimande vouched on the following: Improving quality of education, Transformation of the financial sector, removing the labor and tender brokers, increasing social wage for the working class and fighting corruption as a dedication to Slovo.



An artist impression (Thabo Nyelele) of Table Mountain from Joe Slovo Township

Profiling: Simon Mofokeng

(ANC REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON)

We have noted in the region that we have wealth of leadership which at time goes unnoticed because it is usually not recorded. We note that Vaal has always been playing a pivotal role in the South African struggle for liberation and even post liberation. The editorial team then believes it can be through this bulletin that our leadership can be correctly profiled so that the people of Vaal are able to realise our wealth of leadership.

We will therefore in every bulletin to come profile leadership in the region those leading the MDM movements and those esteemed personalities in society who in one way or the other remain opinion makers. This section shall then be referred to as **ON THE CHAIR**. In this edition we look on the chairperson of the ANC in the region and role he has played in the current political outlook of Sedibeng.

ON THE CHAIR: SIMON MOFOKENG (ANC REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON)

Who is Mahole Simon Mofokeng? Place of birth, Parents & Evolution of his activism

I was born on a farm 50km away from the small town of Reitz, in the Free State Province where I was raised until the age of 14. My parents were farm labourers and I was exposed to the exploitive

hardships which characterized their lives. The injustices made me politically aware at a very young age.

Because the nearest black primary school was too far for a child to walk, I only enrolled at the age of 11. Notwithstanding, I made rapid progress, helped by night schooling from my father which saw me soon promoted two grades higher.

As young as I was at the time, I made a striking impression on all who met me. A former teacher, Mr. Peter Selebano once said that I was a "brilliant youngster", forecasting for me a career as a medical doctor or lawyer.

My grandmother, conversely, saw me as a humble young boy who resembled the king – a future leader. Interestingly, both predictions - the brilliance coupled

with humility came to be as my life unfolded. Even so, at times upon first meeting me, some were apprehensive and interpreted my apparent humility as a sign of weakness and softness. Here too my career would prove them wrong and that more could be achieved with kindness.

More times than I can recall, I and my young farm friends were badly harassed and even beaten up by older white boys. The brutality only made me more determined to see righteousness prevail in his world.

I have quite long to say on my political background but would try and shorten it.

As a student, I participated in student politics at the Seanakwena Secondary School, where I was appointed the Head: Student Representative Council (SRC) in 1979. I continued my tertiary studies through part-time studying with Technical College of South Africa (Technisa), where I obtained National Technical Certificate Part Four (NTC 4) in Industrial Chemistry, which gave me a credit to further my studies with Vaal Technicon where I obtained National Diploma in Chemical Engineering.

I further studied Strategic



Simon Mofokeng

Leadership course with Wits University, and Municipal Management course with University of Pretoria.

AT SHOP FLOOR, 1981 - 1984: I found work with Sasol II in Secunda, and set about recruiting workers to the then FOSATU affiliated trade union, CWIU. This coupled with the open stand I took for workers' rights upset management and I was fired along with 6500 other workers.

1985 – 1987: In 1985 I was employed by NATREF Oil Refineries in Sasolburg, again became active in the union and recruited workers. Clashes with management ensued and in 1987 they went on strike. The authorities, aided by factory sponsored vigilante groups, assaulted the striking workers; some were detained and others killed. I was dismissed along with 3000 others.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UDF: In 1985 I became an active member of the then BCM aligned Zamdela Youth Congress (ZAYCO) and I was elected Political Commissar. That same year ZAYCO adopted the Freedom Charter and became an affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

With the increased security risk, I moved to Sebokeng in 1988 where I was elected labour officer for VAYCO. I later joined the Sebokeng branch of the ANCYL when it was re-established.

ANC UNDERGROUND: In 1987 I was recruited to an ANC underground cell by a comrade known as Banda (former member

of POTWA) later killed by the security police in Soweto.

With the un-banning of the people's organisations I became active in the ANCYL branch in Sebokeng then graduated to the ANC branch.

ANC SEBOKENG BRANCH: In 1993 the ANC Sebokeng branch was paralysed by internal divisions. I was in my third year at the university and was requested by the ANC in the greater Sebokeng to help rebuild the branch. Thanks to time management skills and self discipline which enabled me to manage while studying and I was appointed Scribe or Acting Branch Secretary.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Since my election to the REC in 1995, this has made me the longest serving member and until the regional Conference in 2004 he was the longest serving member of the Regional Office Bearers, both as Regional Secretary and Deputy Regional Secretary.

Because the Regional Secretary's Office is responsible for organisational development, the Sedibeng Region (previously Vaal Region) of the ANC has been commended by both Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) and National Executive Committee (NEC) as the best performing throughout the period I held the Regional Secretary's Office (Not blowing my own horn).

ELECTIONS 1999: The Vaal Regional Conference in 1998 revealed divisions in the ANC at

both regional and provincial levels and the prevalence of factional tendencies. The NDR was under threat because little was being done to prepare for the 1999 elections. The PEC was disbanded and the GILC was appointed to run ANC affairs in the province.

I was then appointed by the ANC Head Office, the province, and the GILC to unite comrades and set up elections structures in the Region. I was tasked with establishing BETs in branches and the Regional Roving Team. The results were such that the ANC obtained the highest votes in Gauteng Province from the Vaal.

Political parties come and go what would you say has helped ANC last for so many years?

The ANC has and is still a mass based organisation. Its policies are derived from the bread and butter issues which affect our poorest and the poor of our society.

What type of ANC would you like to see after hundred years and beyond?

I would like to see the ANC whose members are more disciplined, respectful and understand what it means to be an ANC member.

I would like to see the ANC that continues to lead our people by their will, considering their views and implementing their wishes as their only political home.

Considering the ANC historical and present political dispensations what would ANC centenary mean to ordinary masses?

It means a lot. I mean the fact

that the ANC has experienced several turbulences and challenges which no any other organisation may have experienced, ordinary people see it as an organisation to rely on. They see it as an organisation which is able and competent to lead them to a total freedom.

As Cde. Kgalema Motlanthe once said, we must all acknowledge that the attainment of freedom through the leadership of the ANC is not a victory for the ANC alone but collective triumph for all progressive forces, both nationally and internationally, who spared no effort in fighting and defeating the apartheid system.

This goes the same to our ordinary masses. The ANC centenary is our collective achievement and must share this historic moment together. We must collectively look back where we come from people of South Africa and Africans in particular as led by the movement of the people, the ANC and agree that much has been achieved and more still needs to be done.

Do you think ANC branches are politically conscious and understand the significance of celebrating the centenary?

Yes for sure. Though there is still room for improvement in this regard, our branches are generally politically conscious.

In your view how best do you think we should preserve, protect, and enhance this heritage?

By being disciplined South Africans who advocate democratic, united, nonracial,

non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, the vision of the society we work towards or the ultimate goal of the national democratic revolution

What do you think has made the ANC a longest and respected liberation movement in the continent?

The ANC has and is still a mass based organisation. Its policies are derived from the bread and butter issues which affect our poorest and the poor of our society.

How do we celebrate the 100 years of ANC existence as the region?

The Regional Executive Committee has already worked on a programme which has since been distributed throughout our Region. As Sedibeng Region, we will be celebrating the third (3rd) president of the ANC, ZR Mahabane.

In addition to the programme which the REC has presented to the Branches Executive Committees, Alliance and the Leagues, Branches & Zones are encouraged to convene and embark on various celebratory programmes throughout the Region in line with the regional programme.

Even the non political institutions are as well encouraged to do the same because the ANC centenary is not only for members of the ANC but for South Africans, the Continent and the world.

Are there any plans in place to archive our own regional history and political events?

Yes, you will remember that the ANC REC has since resolved that

all our commemorative events and programmes should be led from the Office of the Executive Mayor at the District level, therefore in the past years, we have been ensuring that this view found its way through our communities.

You would have realised that this programme gained momentum in the past few months through our engagements with the media, both local and mainstream. We are planning to document on print and electronically our regional history and political events, a project which will be completed during this term of office.

As the ANC chair and Sedibeng District Executive mayor, what reflections can we make on 2006 Local Government Manifesto; have we succeeded in changing the outlook of our communities in bettering their lives?

I am proud to mention that much has been done. You will agree with me when I say that our region is today on an internal map both on matters of heritage, tourism and publicity of the service delivery activities which we are engaged in.

You will further agree with me when I say that, although I acknowledge that much still needs to be done, we have made inroads in bettering the lives of our people in the Region.

Sharpeville in today changing shape, Sebokeng is gradually changing shape, some parts of Midvaal are gradually changing shape and Lesedi as well.

How do we move towards eradication of corruption in our society as encrypted in the ANC 2011 Manifesto?

It is still our collective commitment to ensure that all elements of corruption are rooted out of our society, government and all other systems. This will culminate in us living in a corruption free society.

Let me take this moment and reiterate my call to all people of Sedibeng to blow the whistle on elements which they believe are corrupt committed by our civil servants and any other person. This must not be used to assassinate people's characters but must be done in accordance with legal processes.

As the regional chair how far do you think we are in attaining freedom charter as an ANC programme in its 57th year since its adoption?

We have surely made advances and getting there.

Staff

Chief Whips' Office

The Office of the Chief Whip provides Political Management and administrative support to the Chief Whip, Whippery, Multi- Party and Caucus Subcommittees. The Office staff served as a resource to the aforesaid structures hence the caucus took a resolution to beef up the staff in the office of the chief whip.

Senior Admin officers, assistant administrators and messenger were appointed for effective functioning of the office. Senior Administration Officers are also assigned to provide administrative support, convene meetings of the study group with chairpersons and also provide political support in ensuring ANC Caucus resolutions and policies find expression in section 80 committees.

The following people were appointed and assigned to various designations.



Sipho Mokake
Assistant Manager



Winnie Leemisa
Administration & Logistics



Thami Mgudlwa
Research, Information
Management & Policy Development



Danny Thobeha
Capacity Building



Vusumzi Dakie
Marketing & Communications



Alina Moerane
Executive Secretary



Aaron Khumalo
Messenger Driver



Mote Mthimkhulu
Admin Assistant



Emily Mosia
Admin Assistant



Naledi Davenhuis
Admin Assistant