



Volume 1, Issue 1  
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# AMAVA

The catalyst for change

## Emfuleni Local Municipality





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AMAVA is the mouthpiece of the ANC Caucus and seeks to advocate the will of the ruling party in pursuit of a better life for all

The editorial team of AMAVA takes this opportunity to greet all the ANC public representatives in Emfuleni Local Municipality.

This is the Caucus newsletter that has a mandate to ensure that the ANC is properly represented in government. Media is a strong tool and if not properly used has the power of an atomic bomb. Its precision filters the mind. Media has been used to wage psychological warfare that resulted in actual wars and battles.

Media has been effectively used in the Second World War by General Goebbels (Hitler's propaganda chief), and it has also been used recently by the Information Minister in Saddam Hussein's Iraq to sway the population towards a certain view.

The USA has used "embedded journalism" in fighting its imperialist war against the population in the Middle East. It is through an alternative media that this municipality can yield its objective of transforming the society. It is also through a progressive media that this municipality can be working class biased.

Amava is the platform that is aimed at agitating for transformative and developmental local government as espoused by the African National Congress (ANC).



# At your service

## A VOICE FROM THE ANC CHIEF WHIP

Revolutionary greetings comrades, AMAVA is the mouthpiece of the ANC in government and seeks to advocate the will of the ruling government in this municipality. Its advent is the blessing and an entry to the establishment of the progressives both in the municipality and the whole district. Media is a strong tool that cannot be dominated by class rivals for ever.

Having outgrown the challenges of the past months with more vigour our caucus has been the cornerstone of ANC delivery. Central to ensuring that the ANC Manifesto is delivered as adopted by Emfuleni is the ANC councillor. Without an ANC councillor who understands what he or she does in any place where he or she is deployed the objectives and visions of the ANC of eradicating poverty through service delivery cannot be attained. High capacity, high discipline and political understanding by our councillors is the responsibility and obligation that cannot be relegated to any level but lies squarely on the shoulders of this office.

This office is making efforts of ensuring that our public representatives are best cadres and forms part of the catalyst of transformation, in the process of doing this the will of the ANC in this region, informed by the national resolutions, will be ascribed to. This is the commitment that is binding to all our public representatives in ELM. A strong, political and decisive Caucus and Caucus sub-committees is one requirement in ensuring that the ANC delivers and their strength is the

strength of the Section 80 Committees and subsequently progressive delivery in Emfuleni.

My recent trip to Ghana has provided us with some experience on how other countries conduct their business around the world. Reflections on this visit will be properly profiled for consumption. This office will be taking a two weeks visit to Cuba, this visit forms part of learning and sharing of experiences. This is one of the revolutionary visits that should add to the capacity building initiatives in our municipality. Cuba has as a country has a good history with the ANC; this relationship resulted in the government to government relationship. It is this mutual and brotherly relationship that Emfuleni Local Municipality would like to tap into.

A transformative local government that is working class biased can only be understood by ANC public representatives and the ANC. The failure or success of the ANC in government will judged by the way its councillors relate to the government, the state and society in general. Without proper tools of analysis there can be no correct articulation of our organisational and revolutionary



*My recent trip to Ghana has provided us with some experience on how other countries conduct their business around the world*

culture. Without political conscious cadres in all the areas of deployment there can be no revolutionary morality that is expected by the ANC in Emfuleni Local Municipality.

Lets use this tool of engagement to build each other in order to be good revolutionaries who understand and respect the will of the ANC. Amandla!!!



*The Chief Whip at work*

**This office is making efforts of ensuring that our public representatives are best cadres and forms part of the catalyst of transformation**





# Women's month

## STATEMENT ON WOMEN'S MONTH FROM THE ANC CAUCUS IN EMFULENI MUNICIPALITY.

This office would like to congratulate the women of South Africa and Emfuleni Local Municipality jurisdiction in their celebration of Women's Month. This is one day that we celebrate and our history cannot be complete without mentioning some of these events, including this month.

Fifty three years ago on the 9 August in 1956 about 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the legislation that promoted and enforced the carrying of pass books (dompas) by black people in this country. This legislation was aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas. This gave further impetus to the struggle for our liberation from

apartheid. This is one giant stride taken by women that was led by the like of Mama Lilian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, Helen Joseph and many other unsung heroines of this chapter of our struggle.

Today we have a generation of the black majority that did not have to carry the burden of the struggle for liberation and it is this generation that is expected carry the baton where these doyens have ended.

The Caucus of the ANC is one of the areas wherein the struggle to address the national question is waged. This is one month in the year that we need to double the efforts in advocating for women issues and gender awareness in our communities. In doing this the ANC is pushing forward with

gender mainstreaming that will see women unleashing the best of their potential and capability in empowering themselves to carry the transformation agenda as espoused by the African National Congress.

It should be noted in this month this office affirms its intention to address gender issues, women empowerment, fighting patriarchy, feminisation of poverty within the context of our National Democratic Revolution (NDR). It is only the centrality of gender conscious women and men that will ensure that women are empowered and gender relations are balanced in our municipal jurisdiction.

By the ANC Chief Whip: Emfuleni Local Municipality



Mayor A. Mshudulu, Emfuleni Local Municipality and Sy Mofokeng, Sedibeng District Municipality



Caucus Commission at work





## EYE OPENER AND DEVELOPMENTAL STUDY VISITS.

The office of the ANC Chief Whip as part of its efforts to enhance the performance of the council has taken a number of study visits. These visits have allowed this office to view other experiences and how other municipalities and governments functions. Two most intriguing international visits were in Cuba and Netherlands. Cuba was intriguing because of the fact that amid the socio-economic hostility it has endured from the West, especially the United States of America, it has managed to be counted among the best in a number of areas e.g. in education, social and welfare systems and its international solidarity around the world and the empowering relationship it enjoys with South Africa.

Cuba's community is one of the highly close-knit communities in the world close-knit in the sense that nothing happens in it without the ruling party knowing about it. This is done through the community forums: through these forums it is impossible not to notice when there is a problem in a given family, area or society. Proportionally, Cuba produces a higher number of medical specialists than any other country in the world.

The Netherlands is known for its most liberal policies but interesting is the way it has allowed the independence of citizens. The Netherlands is among the few countries that have legalised prostitution. There are areas zoned for this "business". From a developmental perspective legalising prostitution has ensured that it can be controlled and through this it is simple to track

its impact to the society. Its economic input can be properly accounted for. Prostitutes are registered and continuously go for medical check-ups and obtain medical certificates, this assists to a certain extent in dealing with and controlling HIV/AIDS.

The Netherlands is also known for legalising Euthanasia, also called mercy killing, where people who have incurable or advanced terminal illnesses can apply to be killed by doctors trained for this.

Most interesting is the way development is conducted in the cities that are next to river banks. There are developmental corridors that Emfuleni and Sedibeng have learnt from and hope to use in the development of the banks of the Vaal River.

The local visits have been to municipalities that Emfuleni is benchmarking itself against. Having visited the recently upgraded Buffalo City Local Municipality a lot was learnt. Buffalo City along with Msunduzi and Mangaung have been upgraded or declared metropolitan municipalities. Buffalo City has got a viable Development Agency; Urban Renewal Programme is part of the IDP and run central by the local government with the province; the municipality has got 25% shareholding in the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ); the community special programmes run by the council are sustainable and visible where located; about fifty councillors were taken to and completed a university programme to complete their Matric (Grade 12); the

ANC Whippery has an administration that is directly involved with the communities; there are one-stop shops community service centres where the public can come and ask about any service delivery related issues; branding of the municipality is advanced; the municipality is the first point of entry and exit in addressing housing issues and council reports. Even monthly financial expenditures are posted on the continuously updated council website.

The most recent visit by Emfuleni was the Sedibeng initiated visit to the City of Cape Town and Cape Wine Lands. This visit was not a normal one in a sense that it was mainly and deliberately aimed at a municipality where the ANC is in opposition. What was learnt was that the way DA conducts its business in Midvaal is the same as in the City of Cape Town i.e. it seems in all the DA controlled municipalities there is a systemic racially charged approached type of politicking; the relation that the ruling ANC enjoys in its municipalities with the opposition especially the DA, is non-existent in DA controlled municipalities; there are minimal efforts at developing the black areas, and there is more focus on providing land to the private sector rather than prioritising it for housing and land reforms.

These are just some of the experiences of these visits and will be processed in such a way that Emfuleni can learn from. These have been an eye opener and Emfuleni also played a role in advising its sister municipalities.





## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANC CAUCUS LEKGOTLA IN EMFULENI.

The ANC Caucus Lekgotla is one central event that takes stock of the work done at a given time by the ANC in Emfuleni Municipality to inform the future programmes of the Caucus that should find space in the council work. The 52nd ANC National Conference reaffirms the role of the Caucus as that of playing an important role in coordinating legislative approaches to ANC policy, and the oversight and monitoring of policy implementation.

This is where the ANC as a ruling party make introspection to ascertain its conformity to its mandate as reflected in its policy documents. Guiding the Caucus Lekgotla are mainly the ANC Resolutions and most of its policy positions at different levels organisationally.

This in essence is an ANC retreat. Preceding this retreat are makgotlas that are held by Caucus Sub-committees. In these sub-committee makgotlas, which are aligned to the departments in municipality, more policy oversight work is done. Annual programmes that also inform the council departments through Section 79 & 80 Committee are developed by these Sub-committees. So in the Sub-committee makgotlas the progress on the work done at a given time is made and the work of these makgotlas is continuously assessed and evaluated by the ANC Caucus. Like the Caucus, these sub-committees are responsible for identifying skills deficiencies among the councillors for the purpose of capacity building and through Sub-committees Chairpersons discipline is

maintained and debates are properly led. These sub-committees are the first platform of accounting to the ANC by ANC comrades who are MMC's and also these sub-committee should be the first platform of accounting when the ANC need answer on the progress regarding an ANC policy position in a given sub-committee or department. MMC's are also a vital resource in these sub-committees. All work done here is referred to the Caucus for the purpose of further perusal and to a certain extent approval.



Councillors in Caucus Commission



## MEDITATING UNDER AFRICA

It was in Zambia, I don't actually remember the date and time. I know for sure that it was in the evening, right in hot summer day. Discussion was flowing from one person to the other. The question that was asked there was "Who are we?" – Who are we?

Dr "KK" Kenneth Kaunda attempted to answer the question, known by many with his white handkerchief as his trademark. Little did we know that this is actually an international question that must be answered? He said go down, deep in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africans are fighting against Africans, killing one another for whose benefit and for what reason? Once the

conflict in Congo can be solved – so is the rest of the problems in Africa.

Leaders in Africa come and go, some stay for long, but Africa will remain the same. Africa is our home. Many a times when we see reports on CNN, BBC, SkyNews and other western media reporting on Africa the sensation of anger and disgust almost always invite itself in our conscience.

Marcelino Dos Santo in Mozambique asked the same question.

Founding father of Namibia, Sam Nujoma asked the same question. We must know and celebrate our rich

history, full of pain, vengeance and hope for abundance. We must continue asking the "who are we" question; leave it to future generations, until Africa our home is free. Free from poverty, disease and fear.

The fact that we know it for a memento mori justifies us in feeling a certain human pride. We have a right to our moods of sober exultation.

Africa Shall be Free one Day!

*Jason Mkhwane*



Dr Kenneth Kaunde  
and Jason Mkhwane  
in Zambia





## PHILOSOPHY AT THE BASIS FOR OUR THINKING *by Mark Sweet*

Revolutionaries regard themselves as practical people dedicated to changing the world. They believe in putting things into practice i.e. constantly testing things we say and do according to the standard of objective reality that confronts us on a daily basis.

Philosophy raises questions about the nature of the world, the concept of truth, the basis of morality and the relationship which exists between our ideas and objective reality. The foundation of all theory is to be found in philosophy. Philosophy serves as the basis and foundation upon which all thought and activity rest.

Policies and action which is based upon a false or inadequate philosophy can only lead to defeat as was the case with the apartheid philosophy. The philosophical basis of our policies must be correct, otherwise serious mistakes will occur as we are carrying out tasks that arise from these policies.

Philosophy helps us to understand the world as it really is, an approach which treats the world in its own right that exists independently of what we may think or like the world to be.

Philosophy also helps us to understand this world as one of interconnected change and development, a world of universal conflict and contradiction between what is old and dying, and what is new and struggling to be born. Philosophy alerts us to the need for change and the importance of bringing about this change, based on the objective circumstances which prevail at any given point in time. The Strategy & Tactics of the ANC

make use of this approach. Successively since 1969 it looks at the balance of forces, both internally and externally when deciding upon the correct relationship between strategic and tactical approaches to achieving an end objective.

ANC Strategy & Tactics philosophically addresses the will or need to change things, based upon the actual conditions that need to be changed. Through this analytical way of approaching life, the real balance of forces which determines how we apply our minds to moving forward is realised. What is critical is to understand the relationship between our experience and a deep philosophical appreciation of the interconnected relationship between change and development.

The political mistake that is often made by many who seek to interpret the conditions under which we need to bring about change, is that they emphasise one as more important than the other. In other words that experience alone will bring about the necessary and correct change without studying the motive forces of change and development.

An example of this is the tendency to over-estimate the strength of your political opponent so that superficial appearances of the moment are mistaken for the deeper trends at work in historical reality. Simply studying philosophy alone will not in itself ensure that mistakes are not made. The essence of philosophy is that it must be practically applied. Philosophy is a guide to action, and not a system of ideas that can be used as

a substitute for the actual task of carefully studying the world. So understanding the features of objective reality, and understanding how they inter-relate as a process of change is very important.

Hence the philosophical understanding why a National Liberation Struggle had to be waged, led by a National Liberation Movement, in our case the ANC, was not just based upon the experience of oppression faced by black people, but an appreciation of the interconnected contradictions in the nature and type of colonialisation, the system of white minority rule and the economic system that it established.

The lesson is that philosophy must be concretely applied and is not something to speak about in the abstract. What philosophy helps us to understand is the particular links in the revolutionary chain. The National Democratic Revolution which is the theory of our revolution (NDR), Philosophy helps us to understand how these links fit together as a whole so that the constituent elements in the NDR are properly integrated into a coherent and overall revolutionary strategy.

Philosophy is a way of looking at and interpreting the world and understanding it in general terms. It is a part of everyday thought and speech and all our ideas have a basis in philosophy, whether we are aware or not. It tackles the basic questions, the nature of our ideas and their relation to reality. It does so not in an abstract way but in the light of our knowledge of history, and our experience of reality.





## THE WORKER *by Mzukisi Ronyuza*

Clothes tattered; knuckles and palms hardened by years of toiling for a pittance.  
His only motivation was the political understanding he had about the situation.  
Battered by exploitation covered in gold bullions and huge market figures but still  
inspired by colleagues and workers in and outside the country.  
Battered by storms, winds and floods but still towering with dignity & manly pride.

The respect he commands among friends and foes is unequalled.  
In the family he is a bow that sends enlightened arrows.  
He is the tolerant and firm forerunner of the masses.  
Hindered by retrogression and cynicism from detractors in his endeavour to shape the future,  
Unfazed by hindrance, strived on working in the quest for answers to social and economic ills.

This is the working man in the journey denied, the architect of the new order and the  
owner of wealth he never controlled.  
The unfolding of his life depends in his hands.  
This is the worker.

This is the central figure in the economic making process but ostracised during expenditure.  
Led to circumscribed accords and pacts by the "powers that be" but still tolerant and firm.  
His is a journey denied but possible.  
His is a thorny road but conquerable.  
His steps are a journey to a collective, harmonious and selfless society.  
His journey will ultimately end with a just society where his endeavours, influence and  
toil are recognised.

## A TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE, THE ANC *by Mzukisi Ronyuza*

On 22 April 2009 South Africa  
woke up to a new path towards a  
different dispensation and quest in  
consolidating the plight of the working  
class and the poor.

The ANC and its alliance partners  
achived a nearly two-thirds majority  
and five more years to rule.

This is a unique victory that has  
been achieved amidst attempts an  
ideological onslaught against the ANC.  
Also unique in these elections is that  
there was a high level of participation

of young people and a large number of  
these voted for the ANC.

The historical participation of  
Sedibeng, Emfuleni in particular, and its  
input to all the elections since 1994 is  
noted by the turn out of its citizens.

In the current Provincial Government  
we are honoured to have member  
comrades Neliswe Mbatha (MEC –  
Sports and Culture), Sakhiwe khumalo,  
Jacob Khawe – MPL. At the National  
Council of Provinces (NCOP) level we  
have comrade Dikeledi Tsotetsi.

Acknowledged is the participation of  
our councillors in all the election work  
and campaigns. This showed the true  
and selfless will of the ANC deployees  
and members when the call is made by  
the ANC.

But the emergence of opportunistic  
organisations like COPE in our political  
midst while it sought to destroy the  
ANC rather than winning elections for  
itself showed intead neoliberal and  
anti-working class thrust. These were  
the most highly contested elections  
since 1994.





## ANC Councillors Caucus at work

ANC councillors in their deployments in a given municipality derive their broad mandates from the ANC Caucus. These mandates should be consistent with resolutions of the ANC constitutional structures. The attendance of Caucus by ANC councillors is compulsory.

The principal tasks of caucuses of political parties are to keep councillors of each political formation informed about the council programme and to enable the councillors to discuss and agree on the approach of the parties to all matters on the council agenda. They also serve as the organ within which those elected by Caucus to the council

positions account to the organisation as well as serving as institutions that ensure the accountability of members of Caucus. The Caucus also serves as the point of contact between the ANC councillors and the leadership of the organisation to which they belong, the ANC in this case. ANC Caucus manages the work of the ANC study groups and sub-committees which goes on to influence the Section 80 Committees.

The ANC Caucus carries the above functions under the supervision of the Political Management Committee. In terms of Rule 5 of the ANC Constitution, it is the duty of ANC

members who hold elective office in any sphere of government to be members of the appropriate caucus, to function within its rules and to abide by its decisions under the general provisions of the Constitution and the constitutional structures of the ANC.



## Celebrating seven years of success at hand – Chief Whip for life

A journey of life is not complete – it has only started. Since you have joined the municipality in the year millennium and became the chief whip in 2001, little did you know about the world you were about to enter. It wasn't easy but as your ship confronted various storms, you became a good captain.

The majority knows your departure came all too soon and all too soon they discovered that there is an empty seat that needs to be occupied while wondering and whispering in the dark as to who will occupy this hot seat. You understand that life is not at the stand still but change is bound to take place in any sequence or corner.

Like any other human being, born with individualistic characteristics, you are assertive; daring; cheerful and forever thoughtful. Your uncompromising character has ensured that ANC policies were adhered to. As a collective effort, efficient and effective systems were introduced. You were like the glue that always ensured that divisions or factions in the caucus found no expression or space. It is with our greatest pleasure to commend your dedication and zeal to discharge your responsibilities without failing the ANC.

We thank you for conducting this office with absolute professionalism and commitment. We wish you all the

best in your endeavours, your bravery should not deter you from grasping new challenges.

In Marxist terms, the beginning of a thing always transforms into another... such is the journey of life. We salute you chief!

On behalf of the office

Au Revoir!

Jason Mkhwane





## ANC CHIEF WHIP AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE CAUCUS



Clr. Thulani Kunene

# ANC Whippers



*Cde Shandukani  
(Gender)*



*Cde C. Mohammed  
(Roads)*



*Cde. D. Platjie  
(Petitions)*



*Cde. E. Tshabalala  
(LED)*



*Cde. V. Godoli  
(Public Safety)*



*Cde. F. Williams  
(Sports)*



*Cde. M. Kgotleng  
(Health)*



*Cde. Zondo  
(Housing)*

*Cde. M. Maqutyana  
(Water and  
Electricity)*

*Cde. S. Motsiri  
(Finance)*

*Cde. P. Raphuthi  
(Waste  
Management)*

*Cde. M. Gqelasha  
(HR and Corporate  
Services)*



