

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY CLR MONDLI GUNGUBELE,
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EKURHULENI, AT
THE MEMORIAL LECTURE FOR CHRIS HANI, BOKSBURG,
10 APRIL 2013**

Joint Programme Directors, Cllr Patricia Kumalo and Mr Thulas Nxesi

Mrs Limpho Hani and the Hani Family

Members of the Nkobi Family here present

Chief Whip of Council – Cllr Robert Mashego

Ministers, MECs and MMCs here present

MPs, MPLs and Councillors

Leaders of the Alliance and Allied Formations

Distinguished Guests

Comrades and Compatriots;

Once again we gather at this auspicious event to commemorate and celebrate the life and times of one of our late heroes of the struggle - Thembisile Chris Hani.

It continues to be extremely difficult to speak about Cde Chris without remembering that fateful day when he was stolen from us as a result of the cowardly deed of Januz Walusz and Clive Derby-Lewis in April 1993.

Indeed 21 years later, we are still mourning the loss of one of the most sober leaders of the liberation struggle. A man who, when all thought it was impossible to have a peaceful transition from apartheid to a democratic South Africa, was among the first to show their hand in favour of a negotiated peaceful settlement – regardless of his revered armed struggle credentials.

On this 21st anniversary of the assassination of this Freeman of the City of Ekurhuleni, it is my singular honour to welcome you all to our region. All of us gathered here will agree that any attempts to quantify Cde Chris' contribution to the liberation of South Africa are bound to fall short. Indeed, it was as a result of his tragic assassination that the date was set for the first democratic elections in 1994.

In his political career Chris Hani rose through the ranks of the people's national liberation movement, the ANC and its armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe after joining the ANC Youth League at the tender age of fifteen. He went to become a Commissar and ultimately the Chief of Staff. He proceeded to being a member of the National Executive Committee from a relatively young age, and remained at the cutting-edge of strategy and tactics for the liberation of South Africa until his assassination.

His success in the SACP is also well documented as he rose from being a curious and critical youngster, to the highest position of General Secretary by 1991.

His death tested our commitment to the noble objective of a non-racial society. His death also tested our statesmanship as a peace loving nation. And on that score we did not disappoint.

We refrained from engaging from populist tendencies of playing to the emotions of our grieving and heartbroken people when their hero was slaughtered by right-wing fanatics. We understood under trying and very difficult times that as leaders we had to steer clear from populism that will drive our people to engage in violence to avenge the life of Cde Chris.

Any person who had the honour, opportunity and privilege to deal and engage with Comrade Chris will attest to the fact that the manner in which we handled his passing would have resonated with his beliefs. After all he had already denounced violence in favour of a peaceful transition.

Programme Directors

In paying tribute to this giant, I thought it would be proper that as a nation we start reflecting on how we are progressing

towards realising his mission to liberate all South Africans from the shackles of hunger, lack of proper housing and quality health care. We need to judge our performance as a government against his symbolic **Triple H** campaign, which he led from the front.

For Cde Chris the end of the armed struggle and subsequently apartheid marked the beginning of the struggle to redress the inequalities of the past. For him the fight was now about the provision of quality health care to our people, giving them decent housing and relieving them of hunger.

Indeed, 20 years into our democracy, the ANC led government has demonstrated continued determination to defeat joblessness, poverty and inequality. In recent weeks various spheres of government have been continuously demonstrating that indeed there is a good story to tell in as far as the **Triple H** campaign is concerned.

If I can be allowed a moment to reflect on the story of the City of Ekurhuleni and the **Triple H** campaign:

Housing

Working together with the Gauteng Provincial Government, we have constructed approximately 90 000 houses and serviced nearly 120 000 stands – since 1994. This work has not been in

vain with the average household size in Ekurhuleni going down from 3.7 people in 1996 to 3 people by 2011. This clearly shows the reduction in overcrowding with especially poor formal households. This in itself accounts for the improved livability our people are always craving for.

The figure for households in informal dwellings has also gone down from 29.1% in 1996 to 21.5% in 2011. This achievement is even more remarkable when you take into account the context within which it was achieved – that of very high immigration, much of which tends to settle within informal settlements.

We are the first to acknowledge that there is still a lot of work to be done considering that we have a total of 119 informal settlements. We have already partnered with National and Provincial Governments to purchase privately owned land which we are using for integrated human settlements. In this regard, the land in which Chief Albert Luthuli township and Extensions were developed, when completed, will cater for 6 000 households. We further expect our investment in the Leeuport land to result in the progressive release of 12 000 units within an approved integrated plan.

We have also bought well-located land in the Germiston CBD and plan to purchase more land in and around the Germiston Station, which will then be used for high density housing. As

we continue with our programme of social housing, work is moving with speed for the construction of 250 units in Delville and the Fire Station in the 2014/15 financial year, thus bringing to 1 238 the number of social housing in the city.

Health

In broadening our health services to all our communities in Ekurhuleni, I am proud to announce today that we have built 98 clinics since 1994, nine of which operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over and above this, 25 of our clinics provide extended hour services, meaning they are only closed on Sundays.

I further take pleasure in announcing that as we press forward with the **Triple H** campaign, just this month alone we will be opening five new clinics in various parts of the city, thus taking the total number of our clinics in the region to 103. In addition to this, in broadening our health services to our informal settlements, we have procured seven new mobile clinics.

Programme Directors

We continue to render quality health care to the people of the city. In this regard all hospitals and six of our clinics in the region provide male circumcision, while we have placed 35 000 patients on anti-retroviral therapy and treatment - as our

contribution to the contribution to the national programme for the management of HIV and Aids.

Our Primary Health Care statistics show that in excess of six million patients have been to our clinics since the beginning of our present financial year – that is from June last year to date.

We shall continue with our programme on early childhood development (ECD). To date the metro has built several ECD centres and numerous day care facilities for the elderly.

Hunger

As a city we have anchored our struggle against poverty around job creation because we are of the view that these two are inseparable. In this regard we have created jobs as follows:

- Expanded Public Works programme – 12212
- Community Works Programme – 6750
- Graduate and Matriculant Placement – 1100
- Private Sector Investment projects – 500.

Another piece of exciting news on this front is that the city is continuing with the programme of the 20 Vukuphile Learner Contractors that were appointed and empowered since 2013 on a three-year development contract. To this end, we have awarded them contracts to the value of over R70 million. We have since expanded the scope of their work to undertake

additional work in the transport and water and sanitation departments to the tune of R62 million.

Moreover we are steaming right ahead with the programme of developing emerging contractors. Nineteen learner contractors and 29 supervisors have successfully completed this training which cost the municipality R56 million.

More positive news in the city's jobs battle plan and war against poverty, is that we expect to create at least 5000 new jobs as a result of new investment, and a further 3 500 community work opportunities through tree planting, river cleaning, grass cutting and drainage maintenance and flood management among others.

The Municipality is presently piloting a training programme by providing 55 ex-combatants with artisan training at the Ekurhuleni FET College in the following trades: electrical skills, furniture making, plumbing and ICT. This is part of the metro's intention to upscale and consolidate this intervention towards the creation of a comprehensive training and job creation programme of ex-combatants.

Programme Directors

There is no denying the fact that all of us are ambitious and have aspirations. I would believe that not even a single individual in this audience could deny the fact that we are first and foremost executing our responsibilities in pursuance of our self-interest.

Self-interest in itself is not a negative personal attribute. Self-interest only becomes a negative personal attribute when it is in conflict with the broader vision of executing the mandate of the ruling African National Congress. But then again, whenever we engage in practices that will expose our movement and the alliance to undue criticism, then it will be obvious for everyone to see that we have been distracted in our historical mission of serving the interests of the less fortunate and all South Africans – which is what our forebears paid the ultimate price for.

In conclusion, it remains my firm belief that the best way to honour Cde Chris would be for us to successfully execute the **Triple H** Campaign – as it goes to the spine of our determination as government to defeat our triple challenges - poverty, unemployment and inequality.

I Thank you