

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 May 2019

Attention: News Editors

MEMBERS OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE COMMIT TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

The 22nd of May 2019 saw the people from different corners of the Mpumalanga province assembling at the Legislature chambers in the Baobab building of the Riverside government complex to form part and witness the swearing in of those who will serve as members of the sixth Mpumalanga Legislature.

Subsequent to the swearing in of all the members, Judge President Francis Legodi went on to preside over the election of the Premier with Ms Refilwe Tsipane nominated by the governing party, she was faced with a contestation by the leader of Economic Freedom Fighters (official opposition) Mr Collen Sedibe. Following a secret ballot voting Ms Refilwe Tsipane was declared the Premier elect. "In serving our people, we shall continue to declare corruption as our number one enemy", said Premier Elect, Tsipane. The election of the Speaker was also a contestation between the ANC's Busisiwe Shiba and Ms Nomshado Gertrude Nyembe of the EFF, which necessitated another secret ballot voting. Member Shiba was declared duly elected Speaker of the sixth Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature by Judge President Legodi after vote counting. Accepting her election, Speaker Shiba committed to the continuation of the constitutional mandate of law making, oversight public participation and involvement.

Finally, the Deputy Speaker position, a contestation between the ANC's Vusumuzi Prince Mkhathshwa and the EFF's Ntsako Precious Mkhabela was presided over by the newly elected Speaker Shiba. Again after the secret ballot voting, Mr Mkhathshwa was declared as the Deputy Speaker of the sixth Legislature. Delivering his acceptance speech, Mkhathshwa said, "leadership is a call to action and we are today committing to serve the people of the province".

Leaders of political parties represented in the sixth Legislature also had a chance to congratulate newly elected leadership "we hope you all will serve this Legislature impartially" said EFF's Mr Collen Sedibe. Representing the DA Ms Raesetja Jane Sithole said "we can assure you, for as long as you do everything in the best interest of the people of Mpumalanga we will support you". Representing the new kid on the block, Freedom Front Plus Mr Werner Ludolf Weber pledged his support, "I want you to succeed in leading the provincial Legislature and government, and I hope that you will work in a manner that will make the people of Mpumalanga proud". The Chief Whip of the majority party Mr Fana Vincent Mlombo congratulated Premier Elect, Speaker and Deputy Speaker and said "we commit to continue with the programme of creating sustainable jobs for our people and above all to ensure success in the building of a non-racial non-sexist and equal society".

Permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces were also elected that included Mr Archibald Jomo Nyambi, Ms Dikeledi Gladys Mahlangu, Ms Audrey Dimakatso Maleka and Ms Martha Phindile Mmola for the ANC. Mr Sam Zandamela for the EFF and Ms Hildegard Sonja Boshoff from the DA.

From this day henceforth, it shall be hands on deck for all the members of the sixth term of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature regardless of their political affiliation, their primary objective shall be the pursuit of the constitutional mandate of the Legislature.

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