

**OPENING ADDRESS AND PURPOSE DURING THE 2020
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION OF THE WATERBERG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

17 FEBRUARY 2020

EUPHORIA GOFESTATE

11H00

Facilitators,

Mayor of Modimolle Mookgophong Local Municipality Cllr van Staden,

Mayors from local municipalities present,

The District Speaker Cllr. Sara Lamola,

District Chief Whip Cllr. Staff Tsebe,

The Local House of Traditional Leaders led Deputy Chairperson Inkosi Mahlangu,

Esteemed Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Chairperson of MPAC Cllr. Sam Montane,

Councillors present,

The Acting Municipal Manager, Mr. Zacharia Namate

The District Management Team and officials present,

Representatives from the Presidency,

Representatives from COGTA National,

Representatives from Office of the Premier and COGHSTA,

Representatives from Eskom

Trade Unions present,

Presenters,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning. Thobela.

Compliments of the new season!

Let me take this opportunity to greet and once more welcome all of you gathered here today and days to come in this important session.

We so wish that as the year begins: it ushers in a new start and also inspires all of us to be greater servants of the people and the vanguard of the Freedom Charter.

It is time for us to reflect and evaluate whether or not we have done justice to the privilege of being elected and appointed to serve the people of this country. A period of reflection, introspection and self-examination.

Programme Facilitator, in compliance with the Municipal Systems Act, and as part of the annual IDP review, municipalities are further required to prepare strategic planning sessions to reflect on the vision, mission and values of the institution and further verify if they are still relevant given the current socio and economic dynamics within the district.

The IDP must address the needs of the people in their area of jurisdiction, draws in role players and other spheres of government, plans for infrastructure and Local Economic Development, and Coordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all our people.

Programme Facilitator, our strategic focus should be more on improving service delivery and promote coherence in provision of quality services to communities. This should be done through the District Development Model launched by Honourable President Matamela Ramaphosa on the 26th November 2019 in Lephalale Local Municipality.

Also known as “**Khawuleza**”, meaning “hurry up”, the District Development Model will be more practical, achievable, implementable, measurable and aligned to the key priorities of government.

It will synchronise planning process across all spheres of government and remove silos that often hinder the delivery of quality services.

Through the Khawuleza approach, service delivery planning at the district level will be refocused to strengthen cooperative governance and implement a well- coordinated and coherent national programme of action. Development will be pursued through single and integrated district plans- **One District: One Plan: One Budget: One Approach.**

The model will synchronise planning by all spheres of government and involve communities and organs of civil society in the development of South Africa`s 44 municipal districts and eight metropolitan municipalities. Our planning process should involve all key role players going forward. The District Profile has been finalised and progress will be presented later during this session.

Programme Facilitator, during his State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa reiterated that:**(I quote)” The greatest strength of our constitutional democracy, and the reason it has endured, is because we have been able to forge broad-based coalitions and social compacts, be they with business, labour, special interest groups or wider civil society”(Unquote).**

The President further stated that achieving concensus and building social compacts is not a demonstration of weakness. It is the very essence of what we are.

As the custodian of the District Development Model in the Province, we need to make sure that as we lead the way in the implementation of the One Plan, all key role players are part of the process.

Ladies and gentlemen, as Waterberg we are confronted with challenges that must be confronted head-on and those include amongst others:

- ❖ Resuscitation IGR structures. The IGR summit held in August 2019 has adopted the reviewed District IGR Protocol Framework and the clusters in accordance with the District Development Model. We call upon senior management to establish these clusters as a matter of urgency to strengthen IGR structures in the district.
- ❖ Alignment of our organizational structure to the IDP.

- ❖ Financial Management (retaining the clean audit status). Although the District municipality obtained an unqualified Audit opinion for 2018/2019 financial year, some of our locals are still struggling. Through the Cluster meetings, we can share best practice as municipalities district wide.
- ❖ Job creation and skills development
- ❖ Reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate and
- ❖ The financial sustainability of our municipalities.

Programme Facilitator we need to ensure that the strategic document emanating out of this session:

- ✚ Is a Framework for decision making and foundation of a long term plan for the people within the district,
- ✚ Enables the district to organize resources and optimize human capital,
- ✚ Leads to powerful institutional performance,
- ✚ Alignment to the District Development Model and National Development Plan

Our stakeholders as well, have an obligation to monitor progress of whatever projects are designed for implementation as a result of this strategic planning session, guided by Chapter 4, of the Municipal Systems Act.

We want to encourage the district, its local municipalities and all sector departments to work together in undertaking the legislative requirements of integrated planning in delivering services to our electorate.

As we prepare ourselves for the 2021 Local Government elections, we must leave a legacy of the work we performed during our term of office.

Let me take this opportunity to officially declare the session opened and wish all of us fruitful deliberations and engagements during the duration of this session.

I THANK YOU.

