

**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF WATERBERG
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE EMPLOYEES LONG
SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY**

26 JANUARY 2022

WDM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Madame Speaker,
Chief Whip Cllr. Monare,
Members of the Mayoral Committee,
Inkosi Vuma Mahlangu,
Chairperson of MPAC Cllr. Mabe,
Honourable Councillors,
The Municipal Manager Mr. Raputsoa,
Senior Management,
Staff members present,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour and privilege to host this hallmark session where the municipality pauses to give due recognition to the stalwarts who served the community with loyalty and dedication.

Programme Director, quite often we lack the very basic attributes that make us human, just to say “thank you” when a person has done something good for you. This initiative of long service awards will still go a long way to enhance the esteem of our employees.

Indeed the self-worth of employees is recognised and greatly appreciated. Our municipality has a “heart beat” precisely because you gave everything, body and soul throughout the years to make this municipality functional.

It is a special occasion because we don't often get an opportunity to thank our staff for the many years of service that they devoted to the institution. Today is all about acknowledging your consistent loyalty, dedication and commitment over the years.

Such loyalty and dedication is something very special in this day and age. In an age when job hunting is fashionable, the continual search for opportunities and new experiences staff seldom stay longer than few years in an institution.

A future workplace survey conducted a few ago indicate that the average person born between 1977 and 1997 could expect to have 15 to 20 jobs over the course of their working lives.

In a sense it indicates that this group of employees that are receiving awards today represent a rare breed of employees. During your service you may have considered attractive jobs but decided to remain at Waterberg District Municipality. I believe this is a reflection of job satisfaction you must have felt.

Your institutional knowledge is irreplaceable and is what adds to the unique culture of The Waterberg District Municipality.

I hope that you have also benefitted from your experience at Waterberg, that you have taken advantage of the opportunities to advance your personal and professional goals while working here.

If you think back to a time when you started with Waterberg and to where you are today, then I certain that you recognise considerable growth in your expertise, wisdom and capabilities.

Programme Director, you will realise that the majority of our recipients are from the lower income groups, however, they opted to remain steadfast and serve the municipality with dedication.

Without the municipality could have lost face. It is common experience particularly among our young generation today to look for work and join organisations just for wrong reasons such as instant promotions, big salaries and huge fringe benefits – all within a short period of time without corresponding efforts to consolidate one`s experience.

I want to take this opportunity to urge the Municipal Manager Employee Wellness Unit which is supposed to be the heartbeat of this institution. Employees with serious emotional problems must find comfort from this unit. We sometimes lose capable employees because of emotional challenges that not quickly attended to.

As in conclude, I request that you place your invaluable expertise and experience into mentoring up and coming staff so that they can one day make a similar contribution to the municipality.

We salute you for being loyal employees of the Waterberg District Municipality.

Congratulations again on this career milestone. Looking forward to meet you again at your next long service awards ceremony.

I THANK YOU!!