

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR HIS
WORSHIP MORRIS MATABOGE
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

10 MARCH 2022

Programme Facilitators,

The Acting Mayor of Modimolle Mookgophong Local Municipality,

The Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality,

The Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality,

The District Chief Whip, Cllr. Monare,

The Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders Inkosi Mahlangu

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Honourable Councillors,

The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Preciuosstone Raputsoa and Municipal Managers from local municipalities,

Senior Management Team,

Representatives from Coghsta and Office of the Premier,

Our partners in the DDM, NBI, DBSA and other sectors,

Representatives of Labour Formations,

Officials from our District, local municipalities and sector departments,

Stakeholders present,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Afternoon.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for creating time out of your hectic schedules to vigorously involve yourselves in this planning session for the past three days.

This was one of the high level platform of facilitation and engagements displayed by both the participants and the facilitation team and hence depicted a Waterberg as indeed a Theatre of planning.

The important question to ask, is whether sessions of these magnitude are bringing change to the development of the institution and a district at large or whether we doing these only for compliance purposes.

It was indeed an informative session and an eye opener for in particular those of us who are still new in local government.

A variety of service delivery issues conforming to the recent local government dynamics were able to be dealt with at various platforms including the panel discussions, and concrete resolutions taken on how to go about the implementation of same.

Great expectations will however, depend on the implementation of the strategic objectives and plans emanating out of this session.

We have to turn these sessions around and transform them into engines which solves problems and map out a clear way forward.

Programme Director, in giving substance to the outcome of this session we need to cast any programme in detail which were identified within the framework of concrete policy directives. Even in dealing with substance and concrete aspects, it is important that we consider the relationship between general aspects and specific implementing actions.

We also need to closely monitor implementation of resolutions taken and avoid waiting for another Strategic Planning Session.

Information gathered here is key to many innovations we will be engaging.

We need to adopt the models and approaches shared during this session and those include amongst others:

- Enforcement and compliance innovation,
- Core values
- Culture change
- Commitment and hard work
- Market based approach and,
- Demand and passion

All these concepts are in fact what we need to work on to enable us to fix the challenges depicted during the deliberations for the past three days.

The discipline and commitment displayed by participants need much to be appreciated.

It is really an indication of moving away from the traditional way of planning to do business the unusual way.

Your participation has cemented the relationship that we have forged amongst ourselves and we believe that working together going forward will benefit the community of Waterberg.

The approaches adopted in this session should be based on the understanding of the financial situation of the district. It is an open secret that the financial situation of our district is scaring but that will not prevent us from planning for the future.

It needs our collective efforts to ensure that we go all out to engage in revenue enhancement of the institution and where possible mobilise funds and or partner with other stakeholders for the sustainability, effective and efficient operations of the institution.

It should also be noted that the success of our plans is also dependent on the production of knowledge and skills required by the economic conditions that prevails.

In conclusion, Programme Facilitator, Local government has been a primary site for the delivery of services. We have made tremendous progress in delivering services like water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removals at the local level. These rates of delivery is unprecedented in world –wide terms.

However, there are areas in which service delivery is failing, our governance system is not functioning as expected, hence we need to put people and their concerns first.

We need to move away from the out-dated model of top bottom approach in service delivery to a culture of Batho Pele in serving our communities.

Let me then take this opportunity once more to thank all for the job well done and further reaffirm our political will to the outcome of this imperative strategic planning session.

We call upon all stakeholders involved in the outcome of this session to partner with us in bringing change to the district.

Let us go forward together and build a developmental local government system that our communities deserve.

KE A LEBOGA !!!