

**CLOSING REMARKS BY HER WORSHIP CLLR
TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE DURING THE
WATERBERG DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING
SESSION HELD ON THE 9TH MARCH 2016 AT PARK
HOTEL IN MOGALAKWENA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

Programme Facilitators, Dr Michael Sutcliff and Ms Sue Bannisten,

The District Chief Whip, Cllr. Morumudi (in absentia),

District Speaker Cllr Lamola (in absentia),

Members of the Mayoral Committee present,

**The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Sam Mabotja and
your Management Team,**

Representatives from various sectors,

**Officials from our District, local municipalities and sector
departments,**

Stakeholders present,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Day.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for being part of this important session aimed at transforming and developing objectives and strategies to guide the long term planning of our institution.

The high level engagements, facilitation and discipline displayed during this session for the last two days is much appreciated.

Programme Facilitators, the important question to ask, is whether these sessions are bringing change to the development of the institution or whether we are doing it only for compliance purposes.

Our planning of course, should be guided by the National Development Plan (Vision 2030). As we live and breathe the National Development Plan and custodians thereof, we must spread the message and be able to articulate and implement this plan for the benefit of our communities.

As drivers of government strategic agenda, we must be able to allow robust engagement and debate around developmental issues even beyond this strategic session.

We are confident that the realignment of our planning to the National Development Plan as well as the Limpopo Development Plan will improve the quality of service to our communities to create a better life for all.

Great expectations will however, depend on the implementation of the strategic objectives and plans emanating out of this session. We have to transform these sessions into engines which solves problems and map out a clear way forward.

The Economic indicators state that the Waterberg District has the largest economy compared to other districts within the province. It is evident that there is uncoordinated socio economic and cultural development in the district.

As such a holistic approach, including systematic cultural mapping, heritage impact assessment and environmental impact assessment should be central in any development.

It is our duty as leaders of society (both political and administrative) to fight against poverty, contribute in the creation of job opportunities and promotion of economic justice.

Programme Facilitators, we are really humbled by this planning process as it took place at the right time when we prepare ourselves for the new term of office for local government. The strategies that we crafted should stimulate development in the district.

The document which is to be produced after this process should assist us to mobilise funds and attract investors into our district. It is through the availability of sufficient resources that will make us realise the goals that we have set for ourselves.

The Waterberg Economic Development Agency, which is already at an advance stage of being a fully flashed entity, should be the motive force to assist in mobilising resources for development and betterment of the lives of our people in the district.

Pogramme Director, the reconfiguration of municipalities affected our district as well resulting in the amalgamation of Mookgophong and Modimolle municipalities.

This is another process that we are coordinating as the district through the established political and administrative structures to ensure that processes such as the Section 12 Notice are fully adhered to.

Although it seems to be a tedious process, we have to dedicate our efforts in ensuring that it is finalised before the Local Government Elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is another year of the Local Government Elections as we celebrate twenty-two years of democracy.

We must all of us make sure that we encourage our people to register and to vote, especially the youth who seem to be reluctant to do same because of the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

We urge all citizens who are over the age of 18 to register during the second registration in April 2016. We urge the youth in particular those who are turning 18 years of age this year to register in their numbers

In conclusion, Programme Facilitators, let me take this opportunity once more to thank all for the job well done and further reaffirm our commitment to the outcome of this imperative strategic planning session.

Drive safely to your various destinations.

Together we move Waterberg, Limpopo and South Africa Forward.

I THANK YOU.

