

**REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR: DISTRICT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FORUM MEETING**

11 OCTOBER 2018

MOGALAKWENA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

10H00

**Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality Cllr Andrinah
Matsemela,**

All Mayors from our locals present.

**District Acting Municipal Manager Mr Tloubatla and the
Management Team,**

Municipal Managers from local municipalities,

Representatives from Coghsta,

Representative from SALGA Limpopo,

Representatives from Office of The Premier,

Senior Managers from Sector departments,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning. Thobela.

Let me start by appreciating your presence to this Intergovernmental Relations forum meeting. We are meeting here today during the Transport Month as we gear ourselves for the festive season.

We have over 300 000 registered minibus taxis in our country which transport about 15 million commuters daily. Through the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme over 70 000 old, unsafe and un-roadworthy minibus taxis have been scrapped and removed from our roads to ensure roadworthiness and safety for the commuting public.

We have more than 63 000 registered buses that are operating as public transport in the country. These buses move almost 9 million commuters on a daily basis. We call upon all municipalities in the district, to reinforce their law enforcement units in order to respond to the envisaged influx within our district.

Ladies and gentlemen, this forum, is the basis by which as elected members and senior government officials, complement each other with cooperation to ensure legislative compliance, policy implementation and service delivery.

After the first democratic elections in the Republic of South Africa, the government was faced with the challenge of promoting cooperation and intergovernmental relations, as provided in Chapter 3 of the Constitution (Act 106 of 1996) (RSA 1996).

Cooperative government requires the three spheres of government to function as a whole, although the spheres are seen as distinctive and interdependent, they are interrelated. It accepts the integrity of each sphere of government, and recognises the complex nature of government in a modern society.

IGR is really about improving the delivery of outcomes through effective systems, processes and procedures that ensure cooperation of different stakeholders around policy formulation, planning, monitoring, support and delivery.

It is a structure that as government leaders, will like to see it working to ensure a well- coordinated service delivery.

The concern regarding poor attendance of this forum in the district cannot be overemphasized.

Several meetings had to be called off due to lack of quorum by forum members.

It is therefore our humble plea for members to prioritize this forum and ensure that future meetings materialize without fail.

Programme Director, there is an urgent need to strengthen the sphere of Local Government in terms of service delivery to our communities.

The technical report that is still to be presented shows an uncomfortable state of the district in terms of basic services and the backlogs especially on the provision of water.

There is a need to come up with strategies to alleviate the situation.

We all know that water is a scarce resource in South Africa. We rely much on boreholes and in the absence of rain this challenge continues. In Modimolle Mookgophong Local Municipality, the community is experiencing poor quality of drinking water. The same challenge of ageing infrastructure still persist after so many years.

What worries us most is also the poor attendance of the District Water Summit by Mayors which took place on the 28th August 2018. This was a platform where we were supposed to share ideas as stakeholders on best mechanism to circumvent the persisting conditions of water shortage.

But all is not lost because the Office of the Premier has organized a similar Provincial Summit hosted by the Waterberg District to be held on the 16th October 2018 in Bela Bela.

We still encourage all our colleagues to partake in this important session.

Programme Director, it is time that we should be able to think outside the box and come up with implementable solutions to these service delivery related challenges.

By collectively working together as a forum, we will be able to overcome all these challenges.

I THANK YOU.