

**SETTING THE SCENE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD ON THE 8 MARCH
2022**

EUPHORIA GOLF ESTATE

Programme Director, MMC Matome Taueatsoala

***Programme Facilitators Mr. Mike Biyela, Mr. Bheki Zulu
and Mr. Donovan Maritz,***

***The Minister of Communications and Digital
Technologies who is also the DDM Champion,***

***The MEC for Social Development, Hon Nkakareng
Rakgoale,***

***The MEC for Environment, Economic Development and
Tourism, Hon. Thabo Mokone,***

The Acting Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgophong Cllr.

Mayors of Local municipalities present,

Chief Whip of the District Cde. Monare

The Speaker of the District Cde. Reggy Molokomme,

***The Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional
Leaders, Inkosi Mahlangu,***

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Councillors,

Representatives from various partners,

Distinguished presenters,

***The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Raputsoa and your
Team,***

***Representatives of COGHSTA and Office of the Premier,
Representatives from Labour formations,
All Stakeholders present,
Ladies and gentlemen.
Thobela...Good Morning,***

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be given an opportunity to officially open this august session.

Programme Director, this important gathering takes place during the Human Rights Month – a month in which the democratic government declared its 21st to commemorate and honour those who fought for our liberation and the rights we enjoy today.

We commemorate the Human Rights Month to reinforce our commitment to the Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution. It is therefore worth noting that this session should also channel its discussion and resolutions towards promoting the plight of the community of Waterberg.

We are already aware that each municipality has an obligation of drawing up an Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which is a super plan that gives a framework for development.

The IDP must address the needs of the people in the area, draws in stakeholders 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 as per the manifesto of the ruling party (ANC).

Our IDP should take into account the existing conditions, problems and resources available for development.

It must set out a framework of how land must be used, what infrastructure and services are needed and how the environment should be protected.

In compliance with the Municipal Systems Act, and as part of the IDP development processes, 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.

It should also guide the planning of National and Provincial governments departments operating within the jurisdiction of our municipal area in accordance with the District Development Model.

Of most important, Programme Director, is to ensure that all our plans that are emanating out of this engagement, are aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) which is a strategic framework within which planning must take place.

The plan is aimed at eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030. Our primary goal therefore should be to improve the life chances of all people of the district in particular our young people and women who presently living in abject poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen, everything in the plan is aimed at reducing poverty and inequality.

We should therefore ensure that this three days session focuses on key strategic issues which include amongst others:

- ❖ Reduction of unemployment
- ❖ Poverty eradication
- ❖ Investment in sustainable infrastructure development

- ❖ Revenue enhancement mechanisms
- ❖ Enhancing the economy of the district
- ❖ Reducing the impact of HIV and Aids within the district and,
- ❖ Reinforcing the implementation of the District Development Model to avoid planning in silos.

There are however, some of the challenges that we request this session to consider during the panel discussions and possibly propose interventions in order to achieve the real service delivery for the benefit of the people of Waterberg, and those include:

- Integrated planning and budgeting in line with the District Development Model - Separate, unsynchronized planning and budgeting processes between local, provincial and national government have contributed to a lack of integrated and delivery at grassroots level.
- The second identified challenge is lack of coordinated support to municipalities - Capacity building programmes within various municipalities are not informed by an over-arching provincial programme of support and, as a result, capacity support is fragmented, there is a duplication of efforts, and municipalities improvement and or deterioration cannot be adequately assessed.
- The third challenge is lack of integrated service delivery - People often have to travel significant distances to access different government/municipal services which are scattered and located in different long distanced locations.

Of most important, is to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of what we will be planning. Our stakeholders as well, have an obligation to monitor progress of whatever projects we will be implementing as municipalities.

South Africa has been in the grip of transformation for more than two decades now. During this period far reaching changes were made in local government legislation and in the way local government was operating.

The Waterberg District Municipality like other municipalities is faced with enormous challenges to turn the district into a globally competitive one that ensures opportunities for all its citizens.

It is a fact that we inherited a district that lives in abject poverty and is fraught with inequalities and unemployment. I also say we are fortunate to be confronted with these challenges.

Not only do they create an opportunity to grow and develop, but it is also an opportunity for us to make a real difference and leave behind a legacy in terms of development. We are an eco-tourism destination and that in itself should present an opportunity for economic spin offs.

We pledged our commitment when we get into office that we will strive to transform the whole district and bring change to lives of our people.

We however, can only overcome all these challenges and achieve all our goals by using this kind of sessions as a conduit to our concerted focus.

As municipalities, we cannot address all the developmental needs on our own, hence various partnerships are needed with other spheres of government, communities, civil society and business to improve service delivery and development.

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.

We were fortunate enough to be selected as one of the pilot municipalities with regard to the introduction of the District Development Model. We have been doing well in in as far as its implementation is concerned. Several partners from the private sector came on board and contributed in kind for this success, however we still don't enjoy full support from the government sector.

We need to salute those who are already committed to the course and further make a clarion call to the government sector to come on board.

In conclusion Programme Director, we need to use this session to conduct an institutional gap analysis to be used to either tone down on future expectations or to upgrade decisions to overcome our weaknesses.

We need to strategize and ensure that our initiatives are ranked in terms of impact and ease of implementation.

We should be very much implementation orientated and spend more time doing than talking, therefore we will depend on all your contributions towards the success of this district.

Let us not hesitate in the presence of adversity and strive for excellence in all we do.

KE A LEBOGA, THANK YOU!!!