

**OPENING REMARKS DURING THE 2019 STRATEGIC  
PLANNING SESSION OF THE WATERBERG DISTRICT**

**MUNICIPALITY**

**6 MARCH 2019**

**PALALA LODGE**

*Facilitators,*

*Mayor of Lephalale Cllr Jack Maeko ( in absentis)*

*Mayors from local municipalities present,*

*The District Speaker Cllr. Sara Lamola,*

*District Chief Whip Cllr. Staff Tsebe,*

*The Local House of Traditional Leaders led by Kgoshi Kekana,*

*Members of the Mayoral Committee,*

*Chairperson of MPAC Cllr. Sam Montane,*

*Councillors present,*

*The Municipal Manager, Mr. Morris Maluleka*

*The Management Team and officials present,*

*Representatives from the Office of the Auditor- General,*

*Representatives from Office of the Premier and COGHSTA,*

*Presenters,*

*Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and gentlemen.*

**Good morning. Thobela.**

We are meeting here today as we celebrate the Human Rights Month. The 21<sup>st</sup> of March was declared in the new democratic era as Human Rights Day to honour those who fought for our liberation and to celebrate many rights guaranteed under the Constitution that we continue to enjoy.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are also meeting here today as we mourn the passing on of one of our own, Mme comrade Rosina Mogotlane. May we all rise and observe a moment of silence. May her soul rest in peace.

Comrade Rosina Mogotlane was a doyen of our struggle in Waterberg and Limpopo Province as a whole. We shall always remember her for the role she played in the transformation of our country.

In compliance with the Municipal Systems Act, and as part of the annual IDP review, 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.

Programme Facilitator, we are gathered here immediately after three major occasions which will guide our planning during this strategic session.

The President of the Country Cde Ramaphosa, just presented the State of the Nation Address on the 07<sup>th</sup> February, followed by the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance on the 20<sup>th</sup> February and subsequently the State of the Province Address by the Limpopo Premier on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.

All these addresses emphasise on the need to accelerate service delivery through infrastructure development, increase the level of economic growth which will lead to job creation by using the little resources at our disposal.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all remain induced that local government is and will remain the implementing agent of government transformation and delivery programmes.

Two parallel and mutual roles of local government are sustainable creation of environment for economic development and empowerment of local communities

The primary vehicle for carrying out these roles is the provision of services. It is therefore the responsibility of local government to create the necessary capacity to be able to deliver the required services as mandated by various pieces of legislation.

All these can be achieved through the involvement of all local government stakeholders and strategic partners in integrated planning.

These will also entail constant communication between the local government leadership and their electorate to regularize the prevailing perception that says municipalities are failing to execute their responsibilities as mandated by legislation.

Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is a management tool for assisting municipalities in achieving their developmental mandates.

Every municipality is required to develop and adopt its IDP following the legal framework documents as provided in various pieces of legislation.

Section 51 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, provides for developmental local government to make provision for a democratic and accountable government for communities.

It also encourages municipalities to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustained manner in order to promote social and economic development

On the other hand, the Local Government Municipal Systems Act requires the municipality to undertake developmental oriented planning so as to ensure that it strives to achieve the objectives set out in the Constitution.

The Act further requires the municipal council within a prescribed period after the start of the elected term, to adopt a single and inclusive strategic plan for the development of the municipality which:

- ❖ Links integrates, co-ordinates and takes into account proposals for the development of the municipality.

- ❖ Aligns the resources and capacity of the municipality with the implementation of the plan,
- ❖ Compatible with the provincial and national plans and planning requirements binding on the municipality in terms of legislation.

There are however, other pieces of legislation that gives effect to the encouragement of integrated planning within the spheres of government such as:

- ❖ The Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework (ACT 41 of 2003),
- ❖ Intergovernmental Relations Framework (ACT 13 of 2005) as well as,
- ❖ Chapter 3 of the Constitution of South Africa.

The IDP must address the needs of the people in their area of jurisdiction, 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.

Ladies and gentlemen, as Waterberg we are confronted with challenges which turn to be a hindrance on service delivery and those include amongst others:

- ❖ Dysfunctional IGR structures,
- ❖ Alignment of our organizational structures to the IDP.
- ❖ Financial Management (retaining the clean audit status).
- ❖ Job creation and skills development.
- ❖ Reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate and,

Main to all is the financial sustainability of our municipalities.

As we gear ourselves to this process, the outcome of this session should create a better platform for us to be able to shape the future of our beloved Waterberg District.

Programme Facilitator we need to ensure that the strategic document emanating out of this session:

- ✚ Is a Framework for decision making and foundation of a long term plan for the people within the district,
- ✚ Enables the district to organize resources and optimize human capital,
- ✚ Leads to powerful institutional performance,
- ✚ Creates confidence since the organization knows where it wants to go and what it wants to achieve and;
- ✚ Has a solid plan and support systems in place to do so.

Our stakeholders as well, have an obligation to monitor progress of whatever projects are designed for implementation as a result of this strategic planning session, guided by Chapter 4, of the Municipal Systems Act.

We cannot address all the developmental needs on our own and therefore, 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.

In conclusion, Programme Facilitator, I want to take this opportunity to officially declare the session opened and wish all of us fruitful deliberations and engagements during the duration of this session.

Together we move South Africa Forward.

**KE A LEBOGA. I THANK YOU.**

