

**SETTING THE SCENE BY HER WORSHIP CLLR  
TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE THE EXECUTIVE  
MAYOR OF WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
DURING THE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING  
SESSION HELD ON THE 8-9 MARCH 2016 AT THE  
PARK HOTEL IN MOGALAKWENA LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY**

*Facilitators: Mr. Michael Sutcliff and Sue Bannisten*

*Executive Mayor in her absence Cllr. Tlotlanang Mogotlane*

*Mayor of the Host Town Local Municipality Cllr. Parks  
Sebetjane,*

*Mayors from our locals present,*

*The Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional  
Leaders, Kgoshi Taueatsoala,*

*Chief Whip of the District Cllr. Morumudi*

*The Speaker of the District Cllr. Sarah Kuni Lamola*

*MMC's*

*All Councilors present,*

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

*Representatives from COGHSTA and Office of the  
Premier,*

*Officials from other sector departments and municipalities,*

*Members of the Media,*

*Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and gentlemen.*

*Thobela... Good Morning*

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to be given an opportunity of making an input at this august strategic session.

Today is an important day as we, closest to the people, deliberate on our achievements as the Waterberg District Municipality and also reflect on improving the much needed services to our communities.

**Mr. Facilitator,**

The 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, whilst the White Paper on Local Government views IDP as a way of achieving developmental government and intending to:

- ❖ Align scarce resources around agreed policy objectives,
- ❖ Ensuring integration between sectors and stakeholders in local government,
- ❖ Ensuring transparent interaction between municipalities and residents thereby making local government accountable.

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:

- ❖ 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,
- ❖ Is 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) and

## ❖ Intergovernmental Relations Framework (ACT 13 of 2005)

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.

Mr Facilitator, 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.

In his State of the Nation Address The President alluded to the fact that we should be prudent in our spending.

He said, “We have a made an undertaking to spend public funds wisely and to cut wasteful expenditure, but without compromising on the core business of government and the provision of services to the people”.

As we plan and strategise let us take what the President has said and be visionary in our thinking.

Let us apply those austerity measures where we can without negatively impacting on critical mandates and functions that we must undertake.

### **Mr. Facilitator**

Let us also not forget that we still need to apply the Back To Basics principles by focusing on its key constitutional and legislative mandates through:

- Putting people first (Batho Pele);
- Delivering sustainable services to the people;
- Ensuring good governance;
- Ensuring sound financial management; and
- Developing and maintaining institutional capacity

The outcomes of this Strategic Session should instilled a sense of urgency towards improving the lives of communities and confirm that “**Back to Basics**” is about setting clear benchmarks of performance in efforts to ensure that all municipalities in the District perform their basic responsibilities, every day, without fail.

We must go back to the basics in the real sense.

We must commit to ensuring that our local municipalities are able to provide water, electricity, parks, street lighting, refuse removals, repairing of potholes, dealing with the frustrating interruption of services and billing problems affecting households.

Back to the basics also means a recommitment to provide these services in a professional and caring manner which recognizes each resident as a valuable client.

### **Mr. Facilitator**

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the achievements of the district since 2011, which include amongst others the following:

- Clean Audits in the 2010/2011, 2011/2012 Financial Years.
- Qualified Audit in 2012/2013 and unqualified audits in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
- We have established the Waterberg Economic Development Agency (WEDA)
- We have also assisted in the establishment of the District Land Reform Committee and District Agri-Park Management Committee
- Improving integrated planning and performance management.
- Establishing an efficient, effective and accountable administration.
- We have established the SPLUMA Tribunal.

- Improving public participation in planning, development and decision making during IDP processes, as well as strengthening the IGR Forum, Municipal Manager`s Forum and Cluster committees.
- Functionality of District Coordinating Structures (HIV/AIDS, Disability, Youth, Older Persons, MRM, Traditional Health Practitioners)

***However, some of the challenges still facing the district include:***

- Lack of staff in certain functional areas.
- Retaining the clean audit report.
- Job creation and skills development.
- Reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS which currently stand at 30.3% in the District.
- Land Reform is critical in the development and economic enhancement of our people. Fortunately we have established the District Land Reform Committee and hopefully it would be able to deal with the relevant land issues

In dealing with these challenges, we should be motivated by the Good Story that has unfolded in South Africa during 21 Years of Freedom.

These are stories of a caring, effective government that has worked wisely and diligently with scarce resources to make deep and positive changes in people's lives.

Mr Facilitator,

Taking into account all that I mentioned which is only few of service delivery programmes engaged by the district, we should ensure that all our plans emanating out of this session, are aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) which is a strategic framework within which planning must take place.

The NDP focuses on putting in place things that people need to grasp, opportunities such as education, public transport and broadening economic growth and the availability of jobs.

Everything in the plan is aimed at reducing poverty and inequality.

We should make sure that this two days session focuses on key strategic issues which include amongst others:

- ❖ Reduction of unemployment
- ❖ Poverty alleviation
- ❖ Investment in sustainable infrastructure development
- ❖ Enhancing the economy of the district
- ❖ Revenue enhancement strategies to sustain our ongoing projects.
- ❖ Reducing the impact of HIV and Aids within the district
- ❖ Of course, retaining our financial management status of the Clean Audit.

Whilst we are confronted by some of the challenges as mentioned, we pride ourselves for being able to consider, approve and submit the following documents:

- ✚ Mid Year Budget and Performance Report in terms of Section 72 of the MFMA,
- ✚ Annual Report and
- ✚ Adjustment Budget

These documents are a set that provides us with opportunity to account to our communities.

The choices and decisions we make are put in for a test by the public to make them aware of our actions.

As we gear ourselves to these processes, we need the strategy to create a better platform for us to be able to shape the future of our beloved Waterberg District.

The strategy emanating out of this session will:

- ✚ Be a Framework for decision making and foundation of a long term plan for the people within the institution,
- ✚ Enables the institution 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.

Honorable delegates, we must ensure the effective and efficient implementation of what we will be planning here.

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.

We should ensure that our plans seek to achieve the following in line with the ruling party `s 2014 objectives:

- ✓ Transforming our rural areas,
- ✓ Ensuring decent living conditions and sustainable human settlements,
- ✓ Improve and expanding education and training,
- ✓ Ensure quality health care for all,
- ✓ Fighting crime and corruption.

The results of the strategies that we are developing must be realized in the current term of office in order to create a better platform for others who will come after us (leaving behind a legacy).

In conclusion, Mr Facilitator, I want to take this opportunity to once more officially declare the session opened and once more welcome you to Waterberg District, the eco-tourism destination.

On behalf of the Mayoral Committee and Council I wish you fruitful deliberations for the duration of this session.

Together we can move Waterberg District and South Africa  
Forward

**I THANK YOU.**