

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HER WORSHIP
MME TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE DURING THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 5TH OCTOBER 2012 AT FOREVER
RESORT AT 10:00, BELA-BELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

Programme Director,

**Mayor of Bela-Bela Local Municipality Cllr Freddy
Hlungwane,**

Speaker of Bela- Bela municipality,

**Members of the District Portfolio Committee on Special
Projects,**

Youth Organisations present here,

Members of the District Disability Council,

**The leadership of the Youth Councils in our municipalities
and its members,**

Representatives from our Sector Department present,

Presenters,

The Media,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning.. Thobela.

It is with great honour and privilege for me to address you during this august event. It has always been my wish to have this structure launched at the District level so that we engage each other on matters relating to the youth and development.

We are meeting here after we celebrated the Heritage Month in honour of the Heroes and Heroines of our struggle who fought gallantly for us to water the fruits of liberty we enjoy today.

Our Heroes and Heroines were so brave that they could not abandon the struggle for the emancipation of the African people. They had to make sure that the struggle was elevated to another phase of our National Democratic Revolution.

As we deepen and advance the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution, we must always be guided by strategies and tactics that these heroes and heroines used to defend the culture and heritage of our motherland.

Programme Director, in terms of the draft guidelines of the National Youth Development Agency, a Youth Council is defined as: “ **a voluntary civil society youth structure that represents the interest and aspirations of general youth of the municipality**”. The draft also outlines the main objectives of the council which include amongst others the following:

- Mobilising youth organisations to ensure their participation in building and entrenching democracy in South Africa;
- Serve as a legitimate body of representative for youth in all created platforms and;
- Lobby and advocate for implementation of youth development programmes by all sectors of society.

Programme Director, I do not want to dwell much on legislation as we have plenty of it. I do believe that this gathering has gurus in quoting legislation. Beside the legislative and policy frameworks which are informed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other pieces of legislation, our concern is the implementation part of youth programmes.

As we are gathered here today, we must think and be able to come up with proposals and decisions that will lead to strengthening the participation of Youth Councils in our municipalities and the implementation of policies that are already put in place.

They say that South Africa is having the best constitution and policies in the world. Why do we fail to implement those policies? This gathering must think and deal with such questions relating to youth matters.

Programme Director , there is a need to find ways in which we can assist in organising a vibrant youth civil society sector to deal with challenges facing the youth in Limpopo Province and Waterberg in particular.

There is a need to forge relations and partnerships with relevant stakeholders in youth development. Youth Councils through their youth desk in municipalities should be **the source of information and coordination**. Not only organising marches and protests, but information relating to education, employment opportunities for the youth, establishment of Ward Youth Committees, sport, arts, culture, and economic development.

The leadership that is going to be elected today to lead the district should take cognisance of the difficult and challenging task that lies ahead. We will further organise workshops for the purpose of capacitating the leadership to do its work.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a challenge of the abuse of drugs and alcohol in the district by the youth. Waterberg is regarded as the number one district in substance abuse among young people. The youth councils must find a way of dealing with this issue to build a solid foundation for society that takes care of the lives of its young people.

Programmes should be developed through youth council to fight against this bad habit among young people .You are the future and your health is very precious in building a prosperous South Africa.

Crime is also a thorny issue. We know that the majority of young people are unemployed, but that is not an excuse for youth involvement in crime. We must work together to find ways of involving young people in our Community Safety Forums and Community Policing Forums to curb the situation.

Programme Director, the Skills Development Strategy developed by Waterberg District Municipality in 2008 identifies one of the challenges as the lack of skills among the young people in the key economic sectors of our district, namely, mining, agriculture and tourism.

The lack of institutions of high learning in the district to provide such skills is a concern. We hope that the FET colleges that are available in the district will, through engagement with relevant stakeholders change the curriculum to suit the job market.

We are pleased to inform this gathering that a Technical High School to be opened in Lephalale municipality will offer subjects relevant to the job market in the district.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for attending this event and also the organisers who made the launch of the District Youth Council a success.

To the leadership that is to be elected today, we want to state that you must work closely with the youth structures in the district for you to be able to implement programmes. We want nothing else but implementation of programmes for the benefit of all the young people in our district.

Some of these challenges will be elevated to the level of the Mayors` IGR forum to solicit intervention by the political leadership of the district.

Working together we can do more to build a vibrant youth structure for development.

I THANK YOU.