

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF  
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE  
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup>–  
14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

**OASIS LODGE: MOKOPANE**

*Facilitator, Mr. SollyRanamane and your Team,,*

*The Chairperson of the Local House of Traditional Leaders,  
KgoshiTaeatswala,*

*Chief Whip of the District Cde. Morumudi*

*The Speaker of the District Cde. Dinah Monama*

*MMC's*

*The District Municipal Manager, Mr. Letsoalo and  
Management Team,*

*Representatives of the COGHSTA and Office of the Premier,*

*Ladies and gentlemen.*

*Thobela... Good Afternoon,*

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be given an opportunity to be part of this august session and to officially welcome all of you in particular those who joined the session today.

I know that the Municipal Manager already welcomed our facilitators and other delegates who started yesterday.

Mr. Facilitator, 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.

According to Section 27 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000, all municipalities are compelled to undertake an integrated planning process, which is to be reviewed annually.

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.

It should also guide the planning of National and Provincial governments departments operating within the jurisdiction of our municipal area.

Of most important, Mr Facilitator, 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. It will therefore require change, hard work, leadership and unity. Our goal is to improve the life chances of all people of the district in particular our young people who presently live in poverty.

The plan asks for a major change in how we go about our lives. In the past we expected government to do things for us, what our government need is for all of us being it government, business and communities to work together so that people have what they need to live the lives they would like.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to put more emphasis on the National Development Plan because it is a tool which government is going to focus on for the next seventeen (17) years or so. It 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 four days session focuses on key strategic issues which include amongst others:

- ❖ Reduction of unemployment
- ❖ Poverty eradication
- ❖ Investment in sustainable infrastructure development
- ❖ Enhancing the economy of the district
- ❖ Reducing the impact of HIV and Aids within the district

There are however, some of the challenges that we request this session to consider during the commissions 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. 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.
- Another identified challenge is around municipal reporting and meeting fatigue. Municipalities are constantly inundated with requests for same information and data from various provincial and national sector departments. This results in high level of frustration and reporting fatigue. Officials and councillors spend more time reporting the same information than focusing on their day to day operations.

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.

Mr. Facilitator, Chapter 4, of the Municipal Systems Act, provide for Municipalities to develop a culture of municipal governance that compliments formal representative government with a system of participatory governance and must for this purpose encourage the local communities to participate in the affairs of the community.

Community participation is a principle that is accepted by all spheres of government in South Africa.

It is one of the cornerstone of our democracy and has equal benefits for politicians, Public Servants and Civil Society.

Consultations help municipalities make more appropriate decisions based on the real needs of people.

The more informed people are, the better they will understand what we are trying to do and what the budget and resource limitations are.

Public representatives can only purport to be accountable if they have regular interactions with the people they represent, consult and report back on key government decisions.

As municipalities, 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 Director, i want to take this opportunity to once more welcome you to Waterberg District, the eco-tourism destination region with a great variety of wildlife, birds and scenic splendour. A mountainous region with game and nature reserves which forms an extensive internationally recognised biosphere.

On behalf of the Council and citizens of Waterberg, we wish you fruitful deliberations for the duration of this session.

**KE A LEBOGA, THANK YOU !!!**