

**ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR DURING THE  
WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CELEBRATION  
HELD AT THABO MBEKI TOWNSHIP ON 04 JUNE  
2010 AT 08H00.**

*Programme Director,*

*Honourable Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality,*

*Mayors from other Local municipalities,*

*Traditional Leaders present,*

*Councillors,*

*Community members,*

*Municipal and government officials present,*

*Distinguished guests,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

**Thobela!**

The Waterberg District Municipality is very honoured to assemble here today in celebration of the World Environmental Day. The Executive Mayor would have liked to celebrate this remarkable event with you but due to other equally important events, he could not make it to be with us this morning.

## **Programme Director,**

We are gathered here with only six days left for our beloved country to host the world's biggest showpiece, the FIFA 2010 World Cup. *Feel it!... It is here!* As we celebrate this day, we must make sure that the visitors who are in our country for the Soccer World Cup enjoy a healthy and clean environment, especially of the Waterberg District.

The Environmental Day is celebrated world-wide on the 5th of June annually. Due to our hectic schedule we are not able to celebrate it tomorrow and hence this celebration today. The World Environmental Day is a way in which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

In his State of the Province Address on 18 February 2010, the Premier of Limpopo Comrade Cassel Mathale stated that land degradation and deforestation pose an environmental threat in several parts of the province, especially in the rural areas. This situation is caused by the cutting of trees for household reasons and others. He further indicated that as government we are proudly leading and supporting initiatives that seeks to urge people to plant trees and clean our surroundings in order to improve the environment.

The Premier further during his State of the Province Address announced a “Greening Limpopo” Project, which is a project aiming at planting trees as part of responding to the climate change and also job creation. This project was launched by the Premier at Sekhukhune District and started cascading down to other district and local municipalities. We are pleased that almost all our local municipalities have already launched this project of Greening Limpopo.

### **Programme Director,**

World Environmental Day commemoration it's a people's event and it can be celebrated in many ways such as: street rallies, green concerts, tree planting, cleaning up campaigns and so on. Each year has its own international theme, which focuses everyone on the critical importance of protecting our environment. The 2010 World Environmental Day theme is **“Many species, One Planet, One future”**. Everyone must fight with weather change to protect flora and fauna and to strengthen their economies. Everyone should keep their effort to increase their economies and relations all over the world.

There is an urgent need to educate our communities about keeping the environment tidy and to empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

To promote a clean and sustainable environment, the Waterberg District Municipality has embarked on a number of processes and implementation plans. The District has commissioned a study on the management of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve to protect flora and fauna. The District has extended and rehabilitated the landfill sites in Lephalale and Mogalakwena municipalities respectively. The interventions of this nature are aimed at keeping our environment safer for a prosperous future. What we are embarking upon should not end here today.

We call upon all our communities to join hands in both local and district municipalities to enhance the strategies already in place to keep and take care of our environment. There are provincial and national competitions by municipalities on the Cleanest Town.

Together with members of our communities, we want to see one or more of the towns within the District being selected to participate in this competition.

**Programme Director,**

In conclusion, Waterberg District is the tourist destination of choice in the Province because of its scenic beauty and it must be protected at all times. Waterberg District Municipality has deployed Environmental Health Practitioners in each local municipality to do this important function.

We call upon all our community to work hand in glove with them to ensure that our environment remains in a good condition for the future of the generations to come. Let us be the agents of sustainable development, *Together we can do more.*

**KE A LEBOGA, THANK YOU**