

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF BOJANALA  
PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING THE VISIT BY  
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010 IN  
RUSTENBRG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

Fraternal greetings as we open this Women's Month and observe the seriousness with which our Country considers programmes related to the empowerment of women and the advocacy for equality within society.

With the passage of time, we realise that the intensity of the campaign rises and the general acceptance of society to recognise the essence of gender equality, but particularly the participation of the women in decision making structures of sectors affecting them becomes a norm.

We take this opportunity to welcome our Guests from the Waterberg District Municipality, Executive Mayor, Speaker, Single Whip and your delegation. It is a long standing visit that has been postponed due to other pressing matters that included amongst others – the FIFA World Cup games which had to give way for this very important sisterly or brotherly interaction to take place.

We welcome you and want to reiterate that the importance of this visit cannot be over emphasized as all of us stand to benefit from this search for home-brewed solutions. This visit happens at a time when this term of local government comes to an end, and becomes an eye-opener for an assessment of the work we have done as we prepare to report back to the Nation what work we have done, what

challenges we have been faced with, but also, what is outstanding in what we were supposed to do.

We find it a very interesting time in our term, just after the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup and participation in the International Mandela Day Celebration. We still have the warmth of these unifying perspectives, and hope the spirit will stay longer with us, and the constituencies we serve. We find it a more befitting welcome from both sides, with this confirmed common identity as district Municipalities within the same land that you also find this, your home away from home.

We will in the process of interacting, give a more detailed profile of our district for perusal, safe where discussions may touch on some specifics before we come to that part of the programme.

It is to us, an opportunity to evaluate ourselves given the fact that to a larger extent the two districts have similar features. We are a predominantly rural district, with pockets of fast growing towns and a greater potential for both farming and tourism. Our constituent Local Municipalities, five of them together account for the largest population of the Province – comparing with individual districts. The larger portion of the area is rural, and therefore found within traditional leadership areas.

Our relationship with the institution of Traditional Leaders plays a pivotal role in this stable environment. At institutional level, we have representatives of the Local House of Traditional Leaders sitting in our Council, which is a factor attributable to the promotion of these sound relations.

We are hopeful that during your two days stay in the District, adequate time shall be given to facilitate information exchange sessions that can empower both delegations.

Programme Director what is important also, is that we are just a stone throw away. You need neither visa nor passport to make any follow up to any incomplete work. That's the benefit of searching for home-brewed solutions where possible, instead of depending on establishing sister relations with cities outside of our country to deal with our South African challenges. It is correct to do it as an additional effort - adding to domestic initiatives.

**I THANK YOU**