

**2015 STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS BY HER
WORSHIP THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE
WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HON. Cllr.**

N.R. MOGOTLANE

22 MAY 2015

FOREVER RESORT, BELABELA

18H00

Honourable Speaker, Cllr. Dina Monama,

**The hosting Mayor of BelaBela Local Municipality, Cllr.
Lucas Nhlapo,**

Local Mayors present,

The Regional Leadership of the ANC,

Speakers from local municipalities,

**Chief Whips from all locals led by the District Chief Whip,
Cllr. Simon Morumudi,**

**Traditional Leaders led by the Chairperson of the Local
House Kgoshigadi Taueatsoala,**

The Chairperson of District MPAC, Cllr. Kganyago,

**Audit Committee Members led by the Chairperson, Mr.
Ngobeni,**

**Municipal Managers led by the District Municipal
Manager, Mr Sam Mabotja,**

Senior Managers from both municipalities and sector departments,

Traditional Health Practitioners under the leadership of Doctor Mogatla,

Leadership of the District Youth Council,

Leadership of the District Disability Council,

Leadership of the District Sport Council,

Representatives of SALGA Limpopo,

Representatives of COGHSTA,

Representatives of the University of South Africa (UNISA),

Representatives of Mining Houses,

Members from the Business Community,

Media Houses present,

Representatives of Trade Unions,

Community members,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen, Comrades and compatriots..,

Good Evening, Goie nand, Dumelang, Avuxeni, Se lotshile, Aah!!

Madam Speaker, it is an honour and privilege for me to be part of this prestigious occasion.

I am humbled by the opportunity given to me as part of the collective leadership of the Waterberg District to present to you the 2015 State of the District Address this evening.

This is a special occasion that gives us an opportunity to outline a road map towards a single integrated district by presenting a comprehensive state of the district since the beginning of the current financial year.

This occasion gives us an opportunity to decisively respond to questions and perceptions by members of the public on the role of municipalities in providing service delivery.

Madam Speaker,

This momentous session also gives us an opportunity to reflect on our programme of action to guide our financial commitments for 2015/16 financial year.

I take this opportunity to pass my sincere token of appreciation and gratitude to all of you who created time and respond positively to our call to come and witness our initiatives, challenges and highlights as a district.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here three days before the Annual Africa Day commemoration on the 25th May, the date in which the Organization of African Unity (OAU), presently recognized as the African Union (AU) was founded in 1963.

The African Union comprised of 53 member states and has brought together the continent of Africa to collectively address challenges such as armed conflict, climate change, and poverty which confronted the continent for centuries.

As an integral part of the African Continent, South Africa will this year (2015), celebrate Africa Day with a month-long celebratory activities which intend to draw from the strengths of the existing Pan-African festivals established by the AU to promote African arts and culture as well as creating markets for arts and culture goods and services.

Our national interest is therefore defined by the development and upliftment of all African people. The Africa Month programme will also strengthen the socio, cultural, economic and political relations among african nations. We understand our national interest as being fundamentally linked to the entire continent's stability, unity and prosperity.

The Month will be celebrated through variety of activities under a theme: “***We are Africa***” – ***Opening the doors of learning and culture from Cape to Cairo***”. The activities will also aim to support the AU 2015 theme: - “**Women Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063**”.

Madam Speaker,

South Africa recognizes itself as an integral part of the African Continent and understand its national interest as being inherently linked to Africa's stability, unity and prosperity, hence the need to recognize and celebrate Africa month.

Africa Month is therefore viewed as a dynamic instrument to contribute to the Pan Africanism call that Africans unite in cultural diversity.

Africa month responds to aspiration of Agenda 2063 – Africa with strong Cultural Identity, values, and ethics and it is part of the implementation of the strategy of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance

Today we are resolute that Africa shall never again tolerate change of governments through undemocratic and unconstitutional means. Africa is on a growth path which must be maintained. This is the only way to ensure that the African people are truly emancipated from the wrath of underdevelopment, poverty and hunger.

Madam Speaker,

After the democratic elections in 1994, South Africa ceased to be the pariah of the world; it regained its rightful place in Africa, in the United Nations and in the family of nations, emphasizing how Africa is at the centre of South Africa's foreign policy.

South Africa continued to promote and support the operationalization of the AU Institutions by among other things, attendance of meetings of Experts Group, finances, peace keeping, partake in the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM), Promote Regional Integration and Development and Post Conflict Reconstruction.

South Africa will always champion noble intentions set out in the African Agenda through greater co-operation, through solid partnerships across the continent and beyond.

Madam Speaker,

This session takes place against the backdrop of sporadic attacks on foreign nationals. South Africa's transition to democracy was one of the world's most iconic testimonies of tolerance and peaceful co-existence.

Under the stewardship of the late and former President Nelson Mandela, the country had an unwavering dedication to democracy, selflessness, reconciliation, service to humanity and a better life for all.

The recent attacks on foreign nationals are a threat to our historical achievements as a nation. Moreover, the attacks go against the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution.

These attacks have led to the displacement of thousands of foreign nationals and a public outcry that foreign run businesses are not being allowed to operate in certain areas.

We have experienced these attacks at Regorogile Township in Thabazimbi since the evening of the 27th April 2015.

Presently the situation is under control. Foreign nationals have been accommodated at Thaba Park Evacuation Centre and were provided with all necessities like food, blankets, clothes, medical and all other services in need.

Police have indicated that the attack was a criminal activity as shops belonging to foreign national were targeted. The foreign

nationals are now gradually being re-integrated into the community.

We therefore want to thank the Department of Home Affairs, SASSA, Red Cross Society and other institutions for playing an important role in providing much needed services.

Special thanks to the Mayor of Thabazimbi and her entourage for providing excellence leadership in containing the situation and bringing it back to normal.

Government condemns the violence in the strongest possible terms. The attacks violate all the values that South Africa embodies, especially the respect for human life, human rights, human dignity and Ubuntu. These attacks are unacceptable and should not be tolerated by any of us.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The current financial year was a perplexing one, we had highlights as well as miserable incidents to remember.

We have just lost one of our heroine and icon the who played a significant role in the political history of South Africa.

We are still in deep sorrow and mourning the passing away of the late Mother Ruth Mompoti, who passed away on the 12th May 2015 and will be laid to rest tomorrow.

Mama Ruth Mompoti followed other comrades from the province who left us untimely during the financial year in question and those include amongst others:

- Cde. Collins Chabane – the former Minister of Public Administration and his two protectors,
- Cde. Thembi Nwedamutswu – former MEC for Education in Limpopo
- Cde. Jack Mokobi – Former Spin Doctor of the Department of Education in Limpopo and others

May their souls rest in peace.

Madam Speaker,

This year marks the 21st Anniversary since the attainment of democracy in our country, We need to continue to mobilise the broader society and all stakeholders to take stock of and celebrate the gains made since the dawn of democracy in South Africa.

The State of the District Address today must serve as one of those key tools we will use to mark the major milestones in this district. Service delivery programmes and achievements which we are sharing with you tonight prove that a lot has been achieved although much still needs to be done.

Without necessarily denying that we still face enormous challenges, we must collectively agree that life in our district has and continues to change for the better.

In February, the President of the country Honourable Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma pronounced the national plan of action during the State of the Nation Address.

Subsequently the premier of Limpopo Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivered the State of the Province Address

where he outlined the provincial programme of action to tackle socio-economic challenges confronting the province.

Deriving from all these policy statements, integrated development plans of our municipalities, consultative meetings with communities and various stakeholders, district strategic planning session, the Mayoral Bosberaad and other policies, I am certain that we are in the right track to defeat the past legacy and achieve socio economic freedom.

Honourable Speaker,

Our municipal Integrated Development Plan explicitly elaborates on challenges confronting the district and what need to be done in circumventing same and bringing change to the lives of approximately 680 000 people in our district.

Census 2011 results on unemployment within the district indicate that 28.1% of the district population lives in poverty. This economic data therefore compels us to marshal the district's resources efficiently and complement the strategic of national and provincial governments as well as private sector in the creation of sustainable jobs.

The Waterberg District Municipality is gearing towards becoming one of the points of reference in the country when coming to municipal administration. We remain ambitious to become a competitive, liveable and economic contributor to the developmental trends in the country.

In order to achieve these ambitions, we must develop necessary skills and knowledge in our administration and council, cultivate capable developmental cadres, ensure sound structure of

administration, entrench the right character of management and well capacitated workforce that will speed up service delivery and improve accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I always challenged the Management and Councillors of the Waterberg District Municipality to conduct introspection and decide on the kind of leadership we want for our institution in carrying out the core mandate in the local sphere of governance.

The mandate of Councillors and municipal officials is to improve the lives of people by providing basic services. Taking into account the Back to Basics (B2B) concept:

- It cannot be that people should survive without water for three days because there was a pipe burst'
- It cannot be that refuse cannot be collected for three days because the truck has a puncture'
- It cannot be that we fail to address service delivery issues raised by the communities during the Public Participation Programmes collectively, as government in the district and
- It cannot be that we fail to implement forward planning as a strategic instrument to deliver services to our communities on time and not wait for them to protest.

Let us all go back to basics to create a better life for all as the late and former President Tata Nelson Mandela cherished and strive for all his life.

Working together with civil society organizations, public and private sector, Traditional Leaders, Ward Committees and

Community Development Workers (CDWs), we shall be able to provide much needed services going forward.

Madam Speaker,

We are once again gathered here tonight to take stock of the achievements, challenges and interventions emanating from our programme of action guided by the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Council took a decision to resuscitate the Waterberg Economic Development Agency (WEDA) during the 2013/2014 financial year, which will serve as an advisor, stimulator and partner in the regional economic environment.

Economic indicators state that the Waterberg District has the largest economy compared to other districts within the province. It is evident that there is uncoordinated socio economic and cultural development in the district.

As such a holistic approach, including systematic cultural mapping, heritage impact assessment and environmental impact assessment should be central in any development.

The establishment of WEDA will go a long way to achieve objectives that we have set for ourselves.

To date stakeholders engagement meetings have been held and a service provider has been appointed.

The Agency has been re-registered as a municipal entity as well.

In April 2015, the Executive Mayor led a delegation to Nelson Mandela Bay Metro in the Eastern Cape Province on a benchmarking mission with their established Development

Agency. The agency is doing quite well in economic expansion projects for the benefit of the community in the municipality.

We are confident that during the first quarter of the 2015/2016 financial year the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of WEDA shall have been appointed.

The introduction of the agency will therefore go a long way in ensuring that economic spin offs within the district are well coordinated.

Madam Speaker,

Planning is an important tool for spatial, transport, land use and environmental management coordination, while Local Economic Development (LED) is aimed at job creation and development of SMMEs in order to fight against the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment in the district.

The challenges of inadequate skilled personnel in the LED units in local municipalities should be addressed.

Our Department of Planning and Economic Development has reviewed the Planning & Economic Development Forum's terms of reference which manifested into the establishment of the District Business Development Forum.

The forum once operational, will be able to provide financial and technical support to the local businesses. Community

Tourism Associations have been established in all our local municipalities and we call all locals to support them.

The functionality of WEDA will also come up handy to advocate the initiative once fully established and operational.

For the past three years, 2 356 jobs have been created through LED initiatives.

Our intension is to start creating more job opportunities per quarter going forward, of course through LED initiatives.

Madam Speaker,

The district has been fortunate to be one of municipalities identified under the Special Presidential Package (SPP).

The Presidential Package is the social accord signed on the 17 October 2012 in response to economic Challenges facing in particular mining towns.

It recognizes the international and domestic dynamics to challenges faced and focused on distressed mining towns and labour sending areas.

The municipality in conjunction with the Department of Minerals and Energy, established a Task Team with the sole mandate of engaging Mining Houses to review their Social and Labour Plans to comply with the Mining Charter.

It is also an endeavor to identify areas where Mining Houses can make meaningful contributions towards the development of the district.

Consultations with various stakeholders are at an advance stage including and a successful engagement with Mining Houses during a meeting held on Wednesday in Pretoria.

We are hopeful that our attempt to integration of planning between government and the private sector will yields results especially given our economic situation.

Madam Speaker,

The district municipality is also operating an abattoir located in Modimolle.

The abattoir was operating at a loss for the past financial years until the district introduced a turn-around strategy in the form of rehabilitating the dilapidated structure, appointing a new Manager and introducing new marketing innovations.

The projected target was to slaughter 1 100 cattle, 4500 pigs and 400 sheep for this current financial year.

We are therefore happy to share with you that during the last quarter 1 258 cattle, 1 926 pigs and 189 sheep were slaughtered which to us is notable breakthrough as compared to our set target.

This is an illustration of significance progress done since the implementation of the turn-around and revenue strategy of the abattoir.

We however, still in agreement that a lot of maintenance and rehabilitation is needed in order to comply with the relevant legislation and meet the required standards.

We hope to increase the margin as and when all sections of the building are rehabilitated and fully functional.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The pre-1994 settlement patterns which resulted in uneven land allocations, service levels, segregation, extreme poverty and dependence, found accommodation in many planning laws at all levels of government.

Whilst the Development Facilitation Act represents a significant attempts at addressing these unacceptable patterns, this piece of Legislation did not repeal the pre 1994 pieces of legislation on planning. The net effect is that many pre 1994 legislation related to planning remain in operation.

The regulatory framework has a direct impact on the country in the following ways:

- *Economically*: it impedes investment in land development and fails to establish sufficient certainty in the land market.
- *Spatially*: it fails to address the segregated and unequal spatial patterns inherited from apartheid.

- *Environmentally*: it does not balance the country's socio-economic needs with those of environmental conservation.

The continued operation of these pieces of planning laws renders the entire planning system inefficient, costly and confusing and therefore does not support a number of objectives of government.

South Africa's cities, towns and settlements need to be restructured to reflect the priorities and principles of democratic government. The restructuring of same is crucial for sustainable, efficient, equitable and effective service delivery.

It is against this backdrop that government introduced the Spatial Planning Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) in 2013.

SPLUMA seeks to bridge the racial divide in spatial terms and to transform the settlement patterns in a manner that gives effect to the key constitutional provisions.

It provides for municipalities to play their developmental role effectively through the application of directive principles, land use schemes and decision making with regard to land use and land development.

Honourable Speaker,

The provisions of SPLUMA support the environmental legislation and other laws applicable to the municipal sphere. All

six municipalities in the district with the exception of Modimolle Local Municipality supported and pledged their commitments to the establishment of the Joint Municipal Planning Tribunal.

The district action plan that outlines the activities to be undertaken towards the formal establishment and launch of the Joint Municipal Planning Tribunal has been finalized.

As part of the action plan the following have been engaged:

- *Workshop on the framework of bylaws, establishment modalities and composition of the tribunal*
- *District cluster public participation meetings*
- *Development of a template to serve as a guideline for municipalities to second officials who will serve on the Joint Municipal Planning Tribunal*

It should be noted that despite the decision by Modimolle local Municipality to go solo, it has also been taken on board regarding all the developments as outlined.

The Service Level Agreement on the establishment of District Tribunal is concluded to be signed by five locals in the district. The intention is to be ready before the implementation date of the 1st July 2015.

Madam Speaker,

The district municipality hosted a successful Spatial Planning & Economic Development Summit in October 2014 to chart the way forward on developmental matters.

The purpose of the summit was to create a platform for an inclusive economic development and spatial planning, build relationships with relevant stakeholders, encourage a dialogue between the private and public sector and plan ahead as a collective.

The resultant framework will inform developmental priorities in the district taking into cognizance various economic drivers and socio and economic status quo of the district, whilst simultaneously acknowledging the environmental sensitivities of the region.

A consolidated action plan emanating from the outcome of the summit was developed consisting of seven pillars and those are:

- Mining development
- Tourism development
- Institutional development
- Green and knowledge economies development
- Enterprise development (including SMMEs)
- Transport and logistics development
- Agriculture and agro processing development.

It should however, be taken into cognizance that one of the resolutions taken by the summit was to convene sector summits on mining, agriculture, tourism and land.

Preparations are at an advance stage for hosting of the mining summit at Lephalale on the 18 -19th June 2015.

Other sector summits that I alluded to will then be organized during the ensuing quarters getting into 2016.

Madam Speaker,

Most towns in the district are significant freight corridors and there are no proper freight transport facilities such as truck stop. Most trucks park anywhere during the night with no control.

We will be conducting a feasibility study in the 2015/2016 financial year for the establishment of truck stops in the following areas:

- Pinaarsriver,
- BelaBela town,
- Mokopane town,
- Modimolle tow
- Mabatlane,
- Mookgophong,
- Lephalale,
- Northam and Thabazimbi towns.

The study will then manifest into lobbying of funds for the establishment of same in order to control the haphazard flow of trucks moving to mainly mining towns within the district.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In terms of Section 32 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003, the Disaster Management Act No.57 of 2002 and the National Management Policy Framework, the Municipal health and Disaster Management are core functions of the Waterberg District Municipality.

The municipality performs a number of core functions which include amongst others the following:

-  Water quality monitoring
-  Food control
-  Health surveillance of premises
-  Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases, excluding immunization
-  Environmental pollution
-  Disposal of the dead

Regular inspections of food handling are constantly conducted by our capable Environmental Health Practitioners in all corners of the district.

Training sessions for food caterers at various municipalities have been held to promote safe food handling and good hygiene practices. These initiatives are also aimed at minimising the chances of food borne disease outbreaks and to support the informal economy.

Madam Speaker, disaster management which include fire-fighting function contribute to a high expenditure on municipal budget

As a district we are funding this function and do not receive any grant allocated specifically for disaster management.

We invested a lot of cash on the purchasing of state of the art fire-fighting equipment.

However, the challenges faced with regard to implementation of this service are amongst others the following:

- Shortage of human capacity especially in Disaster Management and Fire Services.
- Lack of proper supervision to fire personnel in local municipalities;
- Non-compliance to Fire Operations and Fire Safety Legislations and Codes in terms of responses.
- Escalation of salaries and appointments of fire fighters by local municipalities without approval by Waterberg District Municipality

We are in the process of taking back the control of this function and it is envisaged that by the beginning of the next financial year, all personnel in fire services will be supervised directly from the district.

Madam Speaker, with regard to Infrastructure Development, the municipality has implemented a number of projects with the poor man's budget we have.

The projects completed in the current financial year include amongst others:

- *Development of landfill site in Mookgophong Local Municipality;*
- *The construction of fencing at the Waterberg Disaster Management centre in Modimolle;*
- *Upgrading of streets at Marapong Township in Lephalale Municipality;*

- *Provision of 75 household Ventilated Improved Pit latrines(VIP) in Dipichi rural village in Mogalakwena Municipality and ;*
- *Mookgophong Township Sewer connection.*

It is worth noting to indicate that all projects implemented by the district municipality are Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) compliance and local employees were registered with the Department of Labour for technical and life skills training to train labourers who are to be employed on learnership programmes before commencement of each project.

Through these projects 84 job opportunities created.

Madam Speaker, it is however, an open secret that Waterberg District Municipality is not a Water Service Authority. Provision of water is undertaken at local municipal level.

The Waterberg District Municipality has been allocated the Municipal Water and Infrastructure Grant (MWIG) by the Department of Water and Sanitation for in terms of the Division of Revenue Act for 2015/16 financial year.

The commitment is so far for a single financial year as indicated with an option of being extended depending on the availability of resources from the National Treasury.

The district has therefore been appointed as an implementing agent of projects to be implemented in three identified municipalities within the district.

An amount of R 30 million has been committed for this initiative and municipalities to benefit are Modimolle,

Mookgophong and Thabazimbi with R10 million allocated for each.

Projects for implementation are already identified in conjunction with the identified municipalities and are as outlined hereunder:

- Mabatlane Ext. 3, 6 and 13 installation of skeleton network for erven.
- Mabatlane drill test and boreholes
- Mabaleng storage pressure tower
- Modimolle replacement of asbestos pipes
- Mookgophong installation of valves and chambers
- Roedtan additional borehole and network upgrading
- Mookgophong replacement of pumps and rehabilitation of Nyl reservoir
- Development of Ground water for Thabazimbi
- Smasherblock water supply
- Raphuti/Leeupoort Supply

Madam Speaker let me not hesitate to mention that all the projects that I mentioned are already at an advert stage and due to be completed by end of the next financial year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Department of Cooperative Governance, and National Treasury came with an idea of synchronising the financial year

end between municipalities and both provincial and national government.

The intention was to synergise the expenditure reports and aligning the timelines for projects and programmes in an endeavour to improve the expenditure patterns by municipalities.

Four municipalities in the district namely: Lephalale, Thabazimbi, Mogalakwena and Modimolle were unable to spend their 40% allocation of Municipal Infrastructure Grant by end of the financial year as per the provisions of DORA and were therefore running a risk of the allocations being reversed.

Upon several engagements between Modimolle in particular, COGTA, National Treasury and the Waterberg District Municipality, an agreement to reallocate Modimolle funding to the district was then cemented.

A Memorandum of understanding was then signed between the district and Modimolle Local Municipality authorising the district to be an implementing agent for MIG projects earmarked for Modimolle.

An allocation to an amount totalling R18 million was then transferred to the district with R13 million for projects and R5 million for the establishment of the Project Management Unit respectively.

Projects to be implemented on behalf of Modimolle Municipality include the following:

- Paving of streets in Leseding Ext. 1 and 2
- Phagameng streets and storm water in Ext.6
- Development of the Landfill site and,
- Development of Ward 7 Park at Masakeng Street.

Madam Speaker,

Our district has been blessed with an allocation of R1.7 million Rural Road Asset Management System (RRAMS) as an annual allocation for a period of three financial years since 2013/14.

The allocation`s intention is to assist the rural districts in collecting road s and roads traffic data in line with the Road Infrastructure Strategic Framework for South Africa.

The system assists the district to improve data on rural roads to reduce vehicle operating costs, guide infrastructure investment and extended lifespan of rural roads.

The grant is administered by the Department of Transport to improve rural transport infrastructure district wide.

Six Civil Engineer Graduates have been appointed to assist during the implementation of the project.

We are in the process of engaging our local municipalities for a possible absorption of these graduates upon completion of the project in the next financial year.

The development of the coal and energy in Lephalale did not only eradicate the district electricity backlog but also improved the provision of electricity in the province and in the country.

The provision of electricity per house hold in the Waterberg District increased from 57.3 % in 2001 to 91.8% as per the 2011 statistics.

It is an achievement we can proud ourselves of notwithstanding the persisting challenge with regard to collection of free basic electricity coupons by our communities.

Reasons for non-collection include amongst others the long distances that communities have to travel and or high transport fees they have to pay in order to collect the coupons from the vending stations.

We are however, continuing to engage ESKOM to derive mechanisms of bringing their vending stations nearer to consumers in order to circumvent the challenge.

ESKOM started rolling out the programme by increasing their stations and our recent quarterly reports indicate a tremendous reduction of uncollected coupons.

Honourable members,

We are all aware that the district municipality was able to achieve the Clean Audit for two consecutive years in 2010/11 and 2011/12 respectively.

The standard has since regressed during the 2012/13 to a Qualified Audit Opinion.

Though, with obvious reasons beyond our control, this caused sleepless nights to both the political and administrative leadership of the municipality.

We are therefore once again delighted to have found our footing and obtained an Unqualified Audit Opinion during the 2013/14 financial year. The achievement was through strengthening our governance structures and compliance with applicable legislation.

We are therefore making a commitment to go back where we belong by achieving once again a Clean Audit Opinion during the year under review.

Hounarable Speaker,

Let me not hesitate to mention that the Waterberg District is the only municipality in the province with 100% filling of managerial (Section 56) posts.

These assist the municipality in terms of being consistence in implementing its projects and programmes, exercising its oversight role and reinforcing governance structures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We had an eventful financial year with regard to the support provided to our stakeholders and partners within the district.

Some of our aggressive public participation activities and special projects undertaken and hosted by the Waterberg District Municipality include amongst others:

- ✚ 2014 Nelson Mandela Day celebration – which was celebrated by refurbishing Dira O Direle Drop in Centre in Modimolle and donating items in the form school shoes, food parcels, stove and other equipment.
- ✚ The District 2014 Grade 12 Award Ceremony – the ceremony was part of awarding the best performed matric learners which was held in the same venue in January 2015
- ✚ Executive Mayor`s Marathon is an annual district class event held on the 09th May 2015 and blessed by the participation of over 500 athletes across the country.
- ✚ The marathon is growing year by year and is used to unearth new talent, promote social cohesion and prepare district athletes to participate in National and International races like the Comrade Marathon.
- ✚ Breakfast Session with the Statistician General held in November 2014 in Modimolle – where the district statistics with regard to all sectors were outlined various stakeholders in attendance.
- ✚ The successful Spatial Planning and Economic Summit held in October 2014 which I earlier alluded to.
- ✚ Hosting of the Heritage Day Celebration with inmates from Modimolle Correctional Centre where offenders were displaying and preserving their cultural activities.

- ✚ Hosting of the Budget and Tax Breakfast Session in conjunction with the University of South Africa (UNISA) held in Lephalale in April 2015.
- ✚ Benchmarking with Newcastle Local Municipality on paperless meetings and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro on the Economic Development Agency respectively.
- ✚ Facilitated the public consultation sessions on the Demarcation processes in particular regarding the amalgamation of Modimolle and Mookgophong Local Municipalities.
- ✚ Hosted provincial and district outreach programmes aimed at consulting communities regarding service delivery.

Madam Speaker,

Our relationship with Traditional Leaders within the district remains cordial. Traditional Leaders are effectively participating in the affairs and activities of municipalities led by the Chairperson of Local House Kgoshigadi Taueatsoala.

We are currently engaged in preparations for the smooth running of the Circumcision Schools to commence in June with COGHSTA and the Department of Health taking the lead.

The district hosted a successful Workshop for all Members of the Local House of Traditional Leaders to equip them with information related to the operations of local government.

The office of the Executive Mayor will take an advantage of the said workshop to present the tools of trade in the form of laptops to all traditional Leaders within the district as part of enhancing communications between the two sectors.

We once again believe that our ability to strengthen the cohesion and partnerships that we have already built is fundamental to the sustainability of the achievements made thus far in our district.

In conclusion Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the following stakeholders tirelessly contributing to the success of the Waterberg District Municipality:

- ✓ Local municipalities who are always very frank and cooperative during the joint community consultation sessions and integration of plans.
- ✓ The Waterberg Community who responded positively to our public participation processes and contributed towards the initiation of most of our projects.
- ✓ Mayoral Committee Members and councillors from both the ruling and opposition parties who are always there to respond to the questions raised by our electorates.
- ✓ Management for working hard to ensure that the aspirations and wishes of our community get the necessary attention.
- ✓ The support and role played by our Limpopo Provincial Government, National Government, SALGA, Business

partners, Mining Houses, Media Houses, Traditional leaders, Traditional Healers, Youth, Women, Elderly, People with disabilities and all stakeholders in local government is also acknowledged and appreciated.

- ✓ Lastly my family (husband and kids), who support me through thin and thick and inspire me to double my efforts in contributing towards bettering the lives of the Waterbergers.

Ladies and gentlemen, Change will not come if we wait for other people, change will not come if we wait for another time – we are the ones we have been waiting for: we are also the change the change that we seek.

“TOGETHER MOVING SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD”

KE A LEBOGA, BAIE DANKIE !!!