

**THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TWINNING RELATIONS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR-CLLR. NALEDI MATLOU**



**12 DECEMBER 2006
GABORONE CITY COUNCIL**

His Worship the Mayor of Gaborone

Honourable Speaker of the Council

Honourable Councillors

Honourable High Commissioner of SA to Botswana

Senior Manager –Local Government and Housing –Limpopo Province

Senior Officials of Gaborone and Thabazimbi

Members of the media present

This day, 14 December 2006 will go down as the most significant day in calendar of Thabazimbi Local Municipality so far. The signing of the twinning Agreement marks the beginning of historic journey and partnership between Gaborone City Council and Thabazimbi Local Municipality. We are excited and proud to partner with Gaborone as we undertake the journey of developing our town and seeking ways of delivering quality and affordable services to the residents of both areas.

We believe that this partnership will make its own unique contribution towards achieving the ideas and objections of the new partnership for Africa's Development. We have no doubt that co-operation we endorse today will also contribute significantly to strengthen the joint co-operation Agreement that exist between South Africa and Botswana.

Perhaps, the most crucial for both Councils, would be to release resources, financially and otherwise to fund various projects and joint initiatives, so that we can look back and conclude that this partnership has had profound impacts on the lives of our people. Our government's support this initiative and we should be able to mobilise the most needed resources to fund identified activities.

Your Worship the Mayor, this agreement had to be implemented successfully. We share so much in common there is no reason why we cannot translate this agreement into one of the most successful implemented twinning arrangements. One of our most important priorities as Thabazimbi Local Municipality is to ensure a commitment from government to have the small piece of gravel road from Northam and Thabazimbi tarred in a year's time. This piece of road will no doubt have a significant impact on the success of this agreement.

Your Worship, I believe that we are going to work very hard to share our experience, knowledge and information so that we can best manage our towns and tackle many development challenges facing us. I believe we will commit the administrations of both Councils to work closely together to achieve our goals. Apart from sharing a common culture we to deal with a serious challenges such as

- Provision of housing
- Provision of services such as water, sanitation and businesses
- HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Poverty and unemployment
- Empowerment of women and young people and many others

Let me also take this opportunity to inform this gathering about the Thabazimbi Tourism Expo and the Ketapele Jazz Festival which takes place annually at the end of April. We invite all the people of Gaborone to these exciting events. We will be celebrating five (5) years of the Jazz Festival next year. About three groups from Gaborone participated in this year's event. We had Puna, Machesa and Dithakga tsa Mmino participating in this event. We should work together to strengthen our cultural ties.

In conclusion your Worship, the signing of this agreement is the birth of a new dawn to us. We embrace this new day and we commit ourselves fully to this agreement and may I on behalf of Thabazimbi Municipality and its people, wish the people of Botswana in general a festive season filled with joy and blessed with the glory of God. May the New Year also bring peace and prosperity to the Batswana.

I thank You