

**MAYOR `S KEYNOTE ADDRESS DURING THE INDUCTION OF
WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS, KUMBA CINEMA HALL,
THABAZIMBI**

18 June 2018

Mr Speaker

Chief Whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Councillors

Municipal Manager

Officials from Coghsta and our Municipality and Waterberg District

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to this august occasion of our Municipality. We are meeting here today to officially inaugurate and to induct new members of the Ward Committee which is an important leg of local government. We want to take this moment to thank the Office Speaker and our officials for conducting the process that led to the election of members who are in this hall today.

It was not an easy task to perform considering the amount of complains that the Office of the Speaker and Municipal Manager had to deal with in order to resolve them. We know that other complains will emerge and we shall deal with them in order to create a conducive platform for the Ward Committees to function effectively. It is important for all us to understand the role of ward committees in the context of local government.

Our Public Participation Policy will clearly define the role of ward committees and during induction representatives from Coghsta will also outline their functions.

However we must mention that Ward Committee is part of government's effort to deepen participatory governance where ordinary citizens must play active role in the affairs of local government. We must stress that this is not a paid job but an act of volunteerism which a stipend is given on monthly basis in order to enable members to attend meetings and to service their constituencies.

Our responsibility as Ward Committee members is to make sure that our communities are aware of what is happening around and the programs which government and private sector are bringing in order speed up the provision of basic services. Our role is to compliment the work of Ward Councillors and Community Development Workers. In many instances there are conflicts between Ward Committees and Councillors which is affecting the communities badly. We must learn to work together sharing a common purpose of delivering services to our communities. In this way we will be able to minimise the service delivery protest in our communities.

The main reason why sometimes communities are protesting is because they are not given information which should be our responsibility. It will be disgrace to see ward committee members being at the forefront of service delivery protest which in essence is our duty to make sure that we inform the community of every development taking place in the constituency.

As indicated an induction session will be conducted where the responsibilities of the members will be outlined. Last week we had workshop for Councillors on Roles and Responsibilities, I hope what we have learned us councillors together with Ward Committees we will solve most of our differences in our wards. More capacity building programmes will be organised during the tenure to equip you with information relevant to your function.

We are confident that since you are inaugurated today, the Office of the Speaker will continue to receive reports from your wards detailing successes and challenges in terms of service provision. We should commit today that we are going to make difference in our communities by putting people first and changing the lives for better.

On behalf of the Council and the people of Thabazimbi Local Municipality I take this opportunity to welcome you on this journey which is exciting and on the other hand having challenges that will define our character and build residence. I wish you all the best.

I thank you