

Opening remarks during the TLM Strategic Planning Session 2021 held at Komma Nader Guest House on 14 May 2021 at 10:00

Programme Director,
His Worship, Mayor John Michael Fischer,
Our Members of EXCO,
Chairperson of MPAC, Cllr Frik Erasmus,
Fellow Councillors present here,
The acting Municipal Manager, Mr Gladwin Tloubatla,
TLM Management team present here,

Representatives from:

Office of the Premier
CoGTA
CoGHSTA
WDM
Our Labour Unions: SAMWU and IMATU
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here this morning. I have no reason to doubt us when we said we remain steadfast in our commitment to create a better life for all.

Our people gave us a mandate to lead local government for the past five years, and our meeting here today should best serve to check progress made on the implementation of the 2016 mandate, and areas of improvement going into the 2021 Local Government Elections.

Local government derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which states that local government has to achieve the following:

- Provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.

- Ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.
- Promote social and economic development.
- Promote a safe and healthy environment.
- Encourage involvement of communities and community organisations on matters of local government.

Gathered here are the women and men who have been given the responsibility by the people of the Thabazimbi Local Municipality, to give effect to the vision of a better life for all.

We are actually an institution of Local Government that is in direct contact with our communities who needs the provision of basic services. As the political leadership of the institution, Directors, Managers, representatives from the Provincial and National Government officials we must use this one-day strategic planning session to stop and reflect on strides that we have made to better the lives of our communities.

We must be able to take pride on the successes that we have achieved for the previous years. Equally we must truly reflect on the failures that we had. Our interaction at this level must reflect our commitment to meet the expectations of our people whose hopes and aspirations resides exclusively in this government.

It is during this strategic planning session where we are supposed to make sure that we come up with ways of developing strategies that will see improved service delivery to our communities. Directors and Managers present here have a full responsibility of ensuring that there is perfection in the manner in which they are carrying out their daily duties. The performance of all our directorates must speak directly to our service delivery drive. People must feel the positive impact of the work we are doing.

The issue of institutional performance, and the issue of positive audit outcomes cannot be over emphasised. We certainly need to punch beyond our weight to ensure that our planning assist us to overcome this challenge of negative audit outcomes.

As much as it is important to sit for these kind of session, it is only the implementation of the outcomes which will determine whether we are moving forward.

I want to issue a stern warning against management and indicate that poor performance will not go unnoticed. It is high time that Directors and other managers who will be found to have failed this institution, be held accountable. We must all note that poor performance of a municipality will ultimately result into service delivery being compromised.

As we start with this strategic planning session, let us approach it with an open mind, fully trusting that we will come out of here stronger and wiser. The IDP remains our tool for improving the lives of our people, and there is no way it cannot be linked to the Medium Term Strategic Framework of government which largely informed by the National Development Plan.

Indeed, solutions for growth and development emerge from frank and open discussions on platforms such as this, where we can allow ourselves to reflect on the journey of development and even be critical about performance so that we do not become complacent, but rather continue to improve our capabilities as we go on our journey of deepening people's power as we move our Municipality forward. With these few words, I wish you all a fruitful and a successful session and you are all welcomed.

I thank you.