

WELCOME REMARKS DURING STRATEGIC SESSION WITH
THE MINING HOUSES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY HELD
ON 12 MAY 2021 AT NADER GUEST LODGE AT 10:00

His Worship, Mayor Cllr John Michael Fischer
Our Chief Whip, Cllr Piet Strydom
Members of the Executive Committee
Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Gladwin Tloubatla and his
Management team

Representatives from:

- (i) SALGA
- (ii) DMR
- (iii) All mining houses present here

May I take this opportunity to greet and welcome all of you gathered here this morning in this important session. Local government is and will remain the implementing agent of government's transformation and service delivery programs.

Local government should therefore create the capacity to be able to deliver the required services.

Communication between the community leaders, stakeholders and its electorate should be regularised and enhanced in an endeavour to correct perceptions and close any vacuum that could be created as a result of muteness.

It should become a habit and hobby to constantly communicate with the people and all stakeholders to highlight all challenges that we may have encountered in the execution of our mandate, and further clarify on our achievements as local government leaders.

No vacuum should be allowed in the course of duty, be it the political representatives or public servants. We should never be shy to explain. By us being here, we confirm our commitment to service delivery.

We all know that we have a challenge of poor revenue collection within our municipality. The reason being that we are having challenges in as far employment is concerned, as much as our mines are employing our residents, we still have lots who are not working.

Mushrooming of informal settlements that needs services without paying anything is also a challenge. Most people came to our municipal with the hope of going to be employed in the Mines which is not always the case. The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to the challenges we are experiencing.

As we are gathered here, achieving positive results is preceded by developing a sound plan which takes into account all the merits and demerits of pursuing the set objectives. The outcome of this session must highlight new imperatives and challenges that confront our communities.

As Councillors, we are like Architects since we have to set and develop the vision for our municipality. Managers, as Builders, have to ensure that the vision set is realised. In that respect, when our term ends, we

must not be shy and we must ensure that the strategic choices we make would yield these results:-

We must proudly report that we worked hard to push back the frontiers of poverty;

- Return pride to our people;
- Build confidence;
- Take care of the poor and most vulnerable;
- We choose progress over unproductivity;
- We choose stability over chaos;
- We cherish our youth while caring for our elders;
- We respect the community;

Our mandate that we derive from the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other laws that govern local government have made us to realise that we exist for one reason and that is, to serve our communities and change their lives for the better.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all for availing yourselves in this important session.

I declare this gathering officially opened.

I thank you.