



# **KEY NOTE ADDRESS WARD COMMITTEE CONFERENCE**

**Date : 27 TO 29 June 2017**

**Venue : Karibu Lodge, Tzaneen**

Programme Director;

Madam Speaker;

Chief Whip;

Honourable Councillors of Molemole Municipality;

Honourable Speakers; Honourable Mayors;

From our sister Municipalities - CDM, Polokwane, Lepelle-Nkumpi and Blouberg

Representatives from COGHSTA;

Representatives from Eskom;

Representatives from CDM

Traditional Authorities present here;

The Municipal Manager and Officials;

Community Development Workers;

All ward committees from our 16 wards;

Allow me to express my gratitude for being afforded the opportunity to express a few words on this occasion - The 2017 Ward Committee conference.

Our Municipal Council has, subsequent to its constitution embarked on the process of establishing Ward Committees in our 16 Wards. This was in line with section 73(2) of the Municipal Structures Act (1998);

The establishment of Ward committees also finds expression in the National Development Plan – which promotes public participation and for citizens to be active in their own development!

It is also an important pillar of Back to Basics approach which emphasizes putting people first and promoting good governance;

I want to thank the Speaker, Councillor Moreroa and all the Ward Councillors for their splendid efforts of ensuring we have these committees in our Wards;

Congratulations to all the Ward Committee members for making themselves available to boost our service delivery machinery for the next term of this Council;

Let me share with you a story of a destitute family in Niger. The family was so poor with no access to water around their area. The nearest WELL where they can access water is a four hour walk. At times they come back home without a single drop of water, forcing them to sleep on an empty stomach as they could not cook, sometimes more than two days.

Two of their male children lost their minds after having walked for the four hours without finding water from the WELL – due to being exposed to excessive heat and thirst;

I am sharing this story with you as I want to emphasize the importance of Ward Committees to ensure effective delivery of services to our people on the ground. I am hopeful that with 10 Ward Committee members in each Ward our people cannot struggle with access to basic services – like water;

The Ward Committees symbolizes the closest face of government for the electorate;

We have invited you here to orientate and acclimatize yourselves with various responsibilities expected of you;

We hope that you will indeed use this opportunity to grasp all the information to be presented by the various Presenters during this conference;

Need I remind you that upon your shoulders rest the aspirations and hopes of the people of Molemole Municipality – irrespective of their political affiliation;

We must indeed work together as Council, our Traditional Authorities, Sister Municipalities and other organs of state to deliver to them the promised destination of a better live for all;

Ward Committee is an important advisory body within civil society that serve to assist the Ward Councilor to carry out his or her mandate in the most democratic manner possible;

Ward Committees are a link between the Councillor and the Community;

They give meaning to the notion of **“THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN”**

A notion of a developmental local government as espoused in the White Paper on Local Government;

According to Salga Ward Committees are just one way to ensure that citizens give input to the decisions that local councils make;

Ward Committees helps to foster relations between Ward Councillors and key stakeholders at ward level, such as Magoshi and Community Development workers;

Of cardinal importance is for Ward Committees to work with their Ward Councillors to find solutions to problems afflicting our communities;

We must not compete against them – because that will dampen the hopes of our people, the electorate;

You will hopefully appreciate that once the community lose faith in you they become disillusioned with the democratic dispensation which we fought so hard for;

That will be quite unfortunate as it may lead to social tensions in our communities;

The theme of this conference reads “Empowering a Special kind of Ward Committee for Effective Governance and Community Development”.

May you please use this theme as the motivational urge to ensure you are good value for money in the eyes of our communities;

Ensure that you do not only listen to the concerns of the people – but must ensure that you are responsive to their needs too;

In case you are wondering what happened to the two children who lost their minds;  
Sadly, one of them disappeared into the very same deep WELL they used to draw water from;  
And the family could not find him anymore to this day!

I was made aware that part of this conference also include presentation of Departmental core activities and functions;

This will indeed help you to better understand the functioning of our municipality- which is a necessary tool as you help communities out there with municipal services;

It will serve you good to know which department to consult on pertinent municipal service offerings;

Our sister institutions will also give presentations on the roles and responsibilities of Ward Committees;

We have Eskom as the main supplier of Electricity, more so in our villages;

We hope their presentation will also assist you in resolving electricity related problems;

On the last day of this conference we are going to break into commissions;

Let us all participate maximally during those sessions;

I hope and wish that after these conference you will be well armed with knowledge to effectively discharge your duties and help this Council to improve the lives of Molemole communities;

Enjoy your stay for the duration of the conference and God bless!