Welcome Address

Municipal Strategic Planning Session

21 to 23 February 2018

Masana lodge, Polokwane
Madam Speaker, Honourable Councillor Moreroa
Chief Whip, Honourable Councillor Rathaha
Members of the executive committee for Molemole municipality
Fellow Councillors;
Municipal Officials led by the Acting Municipal Manager - Mr. Ramogale;
Representatives of Sector Departments;
Ladies and gentlemen;

Let me start by congratulating Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for being elected the fifth president of the democratic South Africa.
I must say I was particularly touched and inspired when he delivered his maiden state of the nation address;
More importantly, I got inspired when he remembered the song of the late great Bra Hugh Masekela;

SEND ME – was the song that the President recited to declare his availability to serve the people of South Africa;
Fellow Councillors;
You will recall that the community of Molemole municipality has already sent us; 
About 19 months ago - during the epic 2016 local government elections; 
Of course we accepted their requested to work together with them; 
To indeed accelerate delivery of basic services;

And in the spirit of continuing with that mandate of serving our people; 
As we gathered here today; with Management having gathered from yesterday; 
To review the IDP, being the strategic blueprint of our service delivery agenda; 
We need to determine responsive strategies and projects; 
That will:
  - Improve the roads we travel in as we traverse our 16 wards;
  - Ensure a sustainable supply of potent water;
  - Create job opportunities to improve our local economy;
  - Support our local business sector to reach greater heights;

Of critical importance - my fellow colleagues; 
Is that we need to be alive to the fact that it is only through a sustainable generation of revenue; 
That we can realize our strategies;
For it will be worthless to come with “nice” strategies without implementing them; I therefore expect this strategic planning session to be dominated by practical ideas, views, strategies and tactics; For improving our revenue collection;

Of course we need to take pleasure in the fact that we once again attained an unqualified audit opinion for the 2016/17 financial year; And I want to congratulate the management and the municipal officials at large; For their relentless commitment during the audit period – we can only improve from here;

A credible audit opinion evokes confidence from the communities and our stakeholders; It assures the community that as municipal officials, both political and administrative – We are handling the resources of our municipality in a responsible and accountable manner;

But we must all acknowledge that a favourable audit opinion is not an end in itself; But a means to realize the aspirations of the people of Molemole municipality;
In his state of the nation address, President Ramaphosa cautioned the nation that

“We have entered a period of change; and while change in itself can lead to uncertainty;
It may bring in great opportunities and progress;
We will do well to embrace this change;
And that should be evidenced by active participation of everyone present for the
subsistence of this strategic planning session;

LE AMOGETŠWE!!!!