



Speaking notes for Executive Mayor DR B.E. Mzangwa during the strategic planning session at Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality

Members of the Mayoral Committee

The Management

District Director: Social Development

Representatives from COGTA and Health Departments

Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The people have spoken indeed. In every corner of our towns, villages and farms, we met with people, looked them in the eyes, shook their hands and asked them for their vote. And, they never disappointed on May 18. These ordinary men and women of our country put us into office with conviction that we will serve them with dignity, respect, selflessness, dedication and commitment.

One thing is clear, ladies and gentlemen, voters want only Service Delivery, Service Delivery and Services Delivery. Irrespective of our positions, irrespective of whether we are politicians or officials, irrespective of our different offices, all of us are here for one reason – to fulfil the mandate of voters, the people of Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Ladies and gentlemen, people have bestowed their trust on us with considerations that local government is the closest sphere of government to the people, and the first point of contact of government with communities. Hence, we shall neither fail nor falter in our pursuit to fulfil their mandate. I strongly believe we all have what it takes to work up to the level of their expectations. I strongly believe that together working collectively as a team we can make it. Yes we can. Let us believe in our own capabilities and unleash our potential.

Let me hasten to say, we are proud of the work that has been done in this municipality by my predecessors with much needed support from all of the councillors, management and staff. Much progress has been made in improving the lives of our people in our district. All we have to do now is to raise the bar and elevate our standard even higher in serving our people without fear of failure, moreover that our district has now an additional local municipality in the name of Mantsopa. Let us come with more creative and innovative ways as well as develop best practices that will make our municipality the best ever municipality.

Ladies and gentlemen, it should be loud and clear that as the public representatives we are not here to fight for our political survival and positions, or to surround ourselves with men and women, who will ensure that we survive any political upheavals, but we are here because *vox populi* (voice of the people) was heard. Therefore in responding to that strong voice of our community, all of us should not allow any opportunity of serving our own selfish interests. We should also waste no time responding to the call of our people.

It is also important colleagues for all of us as councillors and management to remember that local government has a critical role in the implementation of the ruling party's 2009 National Election Manifesto's priorities, which form basis for our 2011 Local Government Election Manifesto.

They are:

- Creating conditions for an inclusive economy that will reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality and produce decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods.
- Access for more and more and more people, especially the youth to adequate education and training to enable them to participate productively in the economy and society.
- Better quality health care in a system that is accessible to more South Africans, including the introduction of national health insurance.
- More and More rural communities benefiting from investments in basic services (water, electricity, sanitation and roads) and empowered to end hunger by productively using the available or redistributed land. Through rural development we seek to modernise the countryside and bring dignity to rural dwellers.
- Safer communities as serious and priority crimes are reduced, corruption defeated and our criminal justice system is radically changed.

Honourable colleagues, the above five priorities have direct impact on us as local government as they have been localised in such a way that would allow the municipalities to work towards meeting the challenges facing our communities.

In our own local context these priorities demand us to:

- Build local economies to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods. This will require of us to come with innovative ways and a political will as the district to contribute to President Zuma's commitment that this year will be a year of job creation.
- Improving local public services and broaden access to them
- Build more united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities
- Promote more active community participation in local government and
- Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with national and provincial government.

Colleagues, I believe that at the end of our strategic planning session we will leave this place with renewed vigour and zeal as well as a positive mind to serve our people with determination.

We will leave here with a clear sense of direction we are going to take in making this municipality a better home for all and a port of call for our local municipalities and communities.

We will continue to support our local municipalities and inculcate in our communities a sense of togetherness with emphasis that "Together we can build better communities"

Thank You