

Opening and welcome address by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Her Worship, Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce, during the event of Housing Provision Workshop staged by the South African Local Government Agency (SALGA) organised on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at The Rest Lodge at 09h00.

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Acknowledgements:

- **The Speaker of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Cllr Lebea Elvis;**
- **The Chief Whip of Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Chauke Miyelani;**
- **Executive Committee Members present here;**
- **Fellow Councillors;**
- **Representatives from Sector Departments;**
- **Officials from our municipality led by the Municipal Manager, Ms Ngobeni TC;**
- **Our organisers;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good morning!**

I am greatly honoured and privileged to be accorded this opportunity to welcome you to this important and special gathering of Housing Provision Workshop. This event is special in that it creates awareness of the importance of the housing provision for the poor across the biosphere of our native homeland.

Let me on the outset indicate that we are converging here whilst there is a growing anger across the continent about the collective failure to do more by international community, to clamp down on human trafficking, and even slave auctions in Libya.

Our fellow humans are being molested in what seems as the remnants of the element of oppression of one by another, and a crime against humanity. This is as a result of the horrible state of Libyan migration detention centres, including the systematic abuse, amounting to immigrants' slavery.

About 400 thousand people are said to be trapped in Libya, and this is the humiliation of Africa, and an occurrence that undermines the egalitarian achievements of leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Thomas Sankara, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere and many other men and women who fought for Africa to be democratized.

### **Programme Director,**

This has become a great concern for all peace-loving people across the world. It also happens during the time when South Africa is commemorating the 16 Days of Activism against the abuse of Women and Children from 25 November to 10 December.

During this period, we call on all of you to make an impact in chasing out the scourge that women and children continues to face. We must therefore hold hands with the rest of the continent and where possible, ensure that Africa is at peace with itself.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today's event is about subscribing to the National Development Plan's 2030 vision of transforming human settlements and spatial economy, to create more functionally integrated, balanced and vibrant rural settlement. Collins Chabane has received an allocation of 800 house units from the Department of Cooperative Government, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in the 2016/2017 Financial Year.

As the ANC led government, we believe that the right to adequate housing is one of the most important basic human rights. It speaks to the restoration of dignity to the millions of poor South Africans who have been marginalised for centuries, and who still suffer from the legacy of apartheid's selective development.

Regardless of government and others efforts over the past two decades, South Africa continues to face significant challenges in assisting the poor in access to decent housing as a basic service. Since the inception of democracy, our government has concentrated more focus on the delivery of RDP houses.

However, we continue to experience difficulties when most of our people's allocated houses are uncompleted due to the incompetency of contractors; unlawful occupation of land; community protests; implication of court rulings and submission of incorrect beneficiary information. These and other unfortunate circumstances may render our people homeless for a considerable period of time.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The primary objective of the ANC led government is to ensure the general welfare of our people. At the end of the day, it will take everyone's contribution in various ways to tackle the chronic housing shortage – particularly in Collins Chabane Municipality. It will take combined efforts from affected communities,

government, civil society and the private sector to build a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community.

As I welcome you **Programme Director**, let us give this two days' workshop the necessary attention and deliberation it deserves. It forms part of the contract we signed with our people when we were sworn in as their representatives, and they trust us to be vigilant in pursuit of a better life for all. Indeed, we cannot continue to say we are free when the majority of our people are homeless and without houses.

With these few words, I declare this workshop officially opened. I wish you a fruitful deliberation during the course of this workshop.

**I thank you!!!**