

OPENING REMARKS BY THE MAYOR OF LIM345 LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, COUNCILLOR BILA TINTSWALO JOYCE DURING THE SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP) INDUCTION WORKSHOP HELD ON THE 2ND OF OCTOBER 2017 AT TZANEEN COUNTRY LODGE.

- **The Honourable Speaker, Cllr Lebea ME;**
- **Honourable Chief Whip, Cllr Chauke MG;**
- **Members of Executive Committee;**
- **MPAC Chairperson, Cllr Mudau TS;**
- **Section 79 Chairpersons;**
- **Officials under the leadership of the Municipal Manager, Ms Ngobeni TC;**
- **Staff**

Good morning!!

May I take this opportunity to greet and welcome all of you gathered here today in this important Lim345 SDBIP Induction, which will detail the implementation of service delivery and the budget for the financial year in compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003). This is a process of measuring performance in the delivery of services, therefore holding management accountable for their day to day performance.

Honourable Speaker,

Local government is and will remain the implementing agent of government's transformation and delivery programs. Two parallel and mutually reinforcing roles of local government are sustainable upliftment and empowerment of local communities and the sustainable creation of an environment for economic development and opportunity. The primary vehicle for carrying out these roles is

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

Communication between the leadership 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 highlight all challenges that we may have encountered in the execution of our mandate, and further elucidate on our achievements as government at whatever sphere of government. 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.

Honourable Speaker,

By us being here, we confirm our resolve to service delivery and furthermore, subscribe to the notion that:

“Success is realised when preparation and opportunity meet”.

We are here to prepare and plan and we hope that opportunities will present themselves so that we can see a municipality that is performing and ultimately successful in all its required functional areas. We need to push good values of the organisation to our employees. We need to introduce change that is founded on good principles and culture. We have to excel in what we do.

Unity in action must drive us to be a winning team. Let us all subscribe to all call that is derived from an old adage: *‘united we stand, divided we fall...’* and we commit that this is what will drive this induction. In order to achieve concomitant results, we should collectively contribute towards our calculated development path.

It is in this spirit that we are steadfast and in support of our President’s 2017 ‘State of the Nation Address’ and broadly the government call that *“working together we can move South Africa forward.”* This collective agreement necessitates that we ensure that the results of

this workshop would contribute positively and add value to the life of Lim345 Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

Developmental Local Government is Local Government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community.

The White Paper – which is often referred to as the ‘Mini-Constitution’ for the local sphere of government – defines Developmental Local Government as:

‘Local government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community, to find long-term or sustainable ways to meet the social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of the lives of the community.’

To realize this vision, municipalities are encouraged to build local democracy by developing mechanisms to continuously engage with citizens, business and community groups. The White Paper requires active participation of citizens at four levels, as:

- Voters;
- Participants in the policy process;
- Consumers and service-users; and
- Partners in resource mobilization.

Honourable Speaker,

The White Paper further states that municipalities must represent the interests of the people in the community and work with all sections of the community to build a shared vision and to set goals for development. This SDBIP Induction must provide an expression to these requirements. It must be able to distinguish roles that complements one another towards a common objective of bettering people’s lives.

We all know that we have a plethora of challenges within our municipality. We can summarise them as follows:

- Shortage of staff;
- Lack of policies;
- Uncertain revenue collection;
- The dysfunctionality of one of our nodal points;
- Capacity gaps;
- Unclear budget allocations; and
- Provision of services.

Challenges identified above should be confronted with velocity of a bull. Failure to do so would create pitfalls that would be insurmountable where in some instances public representatives would be treated like lepers within the community they ought to serve.

Whilst we are confronted by some of the above challenges, we have been able to consider the following:

- We've procured two graders for the Technical Services Department which I believe will reduce the backlog in street clearing for both old localities and new extensions;
- We have been able to take government to the people with our Mayoral Public Participations and Municipal Billing Awareness Campaigns. I am pleased to indicate that people have started collecting their statements and paying for their services;
- We have also adhered to our corporate calendar and all meetings are conducted towards ensuring a working institution for this generation and the coming generations;
- Furthermore, we have successfully completed our first test when we celebrated our One Year Anniversary on the 17th of August 2017, thus indicating that we are here to stay, and we are here to service our people beyond all reasonable doubts.

Honourable Speaker,

The above events together with our adopted Budget and IDP are sets that provides us with the opportunity to account to our communities. The choices and decisions we make are put into test and the public is now aware of our actions. During our Billing Awareness Roadshows, our people reiterated that they anticipate value and accountability for the money that they are expected to pay. They expect political representation and public servants who are guided by a system that is not selfish, but cares for people's needs.

This clearly present more of what is required of us. As we gear ourselves to the second quarter of our second year in service, we need this induction to create better platform for us to be able to shape the future of our beloved municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

This induction outcome will provide us with the following directions:

- It is our framework of decision-making and action;
- It is a rally point, pro-active and activating;
- It initiates change and improvement while providing fundamental principles;
- It leads to powerful organisational performance; and
- It creates confidence, since the organisations knows where it wants to go and what it wants to achieve.

Lim345 Municipality will bring exciting and new opportunities to its people. Numerous lives of ordinary people will be changed for the better. As leadership we have to usher change and create meaning to the people who elected us. It is through this SDBIP Induction and other initiatives that will make us score high returns in our resolve for a better life for all.

Honourable Speaker,

As we are gathered here to structure our line of responsibilities and compliances, it must be remembered that this occasion takes place in a Centenary Year of Cde Oliver Reginald Tambo, and a day that marks the finale of nationwide remembrance of the people's servant – Steve Bantu Biko – who died on the 12th of September 1977 whilst in custody of security police. A better way for Lim345 to remember these giants is through attaining a good Audit Opinion at the end of this financial year.

Honourable Speaker,

As jobs are lost and companies close down, municipal revenue from rates and taxes shrink, local economies decline or even stagnate, indigent registers expand – increasing demand for free basic services. Against this backdrop, Lim345 Municipality must remain financially viable, we must never allow it to be dissolved, lest history judge us.

We are geared up to take the challenges before us through deliberate means of redressing the imbalances of the past and turn the vicious poverty circle which confronts our communities. Our resolve on creating enabling regulatory framework has gained impetus and we are certain that before our term of office lapse, we shall ensure that all our policies and by-laws strengthen our capacity to manage this municipality.

This induction is about understanding the connections between responsibilities and identifying the key drivers and points of leverage. As Councillors, we are defined as 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 choices we make would yield these results:

- We must proudly report that we worked hard to push back the frontiers of poverty;
- To return pride to our people;

- To build confidence;
- To care for the poor and most vulnerable;
- We must seek to build rather than postulate;
- We must choose decision over vacillation;
- We choose progress over stagnation;
- We choose inclusion over exclusion;
- We choose stability over chaos;
- We choose predictability over irrationality;
- We respect the community and the individual;
- We cherish our diversity and our common humanity;
- We choose respect over disregard;
- We choose humility over arrogance;
- We choose partnership over isolation;
- We choose learning over assuming;

Finally, our mandate that we derive from the constitution of the republic 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. We are therefore servant leaders and may our stewardship and sustainability embrace the noble objectives of developmental local government.

The outcome of this induction will guide us in our quest for a better life for all. With this tool, we will remain focused on ensuring that we deliver on our mandate.

Adequate attention must also be put on ensuring that a sufficient human resourced structure is developed for the implementation of the SDBIP. In this regard, the major tasks for the departments will be to grow particularly in areas of specialization and management.

As I welcome you **Honourable Speaker,**

I sincerely believe that the compliance in implementing our Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan will make our municipality

to grow from strength to strength. The results must be realized in the current term of office in order to create a better platform for others who will come after us.

I declare this SDBIP Induction officially opened.

I thank you.