



FETAKGOMO – GREATER TUBATSE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



The GTM
GREATER TUBATSE
MUNICIPALITY

South Africa's first democratic platinum city

MAYOR `S KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURATION OF WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MOSES MABOTHA HALL, 05 DECEMBER 2016

Madame Speaker

Chief Whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Councillors

Municipal Manager

Directors

Representatives from Coghsta

Officials

Media

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to this august occasion of our Municipality. We are meeting here today to inaugurate and to induct new members of the Ward Committee which is an important leg of local government. We want to take this moment to thank the Office Speaker and our officials for conducting the process that led to the election of members who are in this hall today. It was not an easy task to perform considering the amount of complains that the Office of the Speaker and Municipal Manager had to deal with in order to resolve them.

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We know that other complains will emerge and we shall deal with them in order to create a conducive platform for the Ward Committees to function effectively. It is important for all us to understand the role of ward committees in the context of local government.

Our Public Participation Policy will clearly define the role of ward committees and during induction representatives from Coghsta will also outline their functions.

However we must mention that Ward Committee is part of government `s effort to deepen participatory governance where ordinary citizens must play active role in the affairs of local government. We must stress that this is not a paid job but an act of volunteerism which a stipend is given on monthly basis in order to enable members to attend meetings and to service their constituencies. We want to dispel the notion that Ward Committees members are to be paid an amount of R5000 00 per month and we want to say to you that this is not true.

Our responsibility as Ward Committee members is to make sure that our communities are aware of what is happening around and the programs which government and private sector are bringing in order speed up the provision of basic services. Our role is to compliment the work of Ward Councillors and Community development workers. In many instances there are conflicts between Ward Committees and Councillors which is affecting the communities badly. We must learn to work together sharing a common purpose of delivering services to our communities. In this way we will be able to minimise the service delivery protest in our communities.

The main reason why communities are protesting is because they are not given information which should be our responsibility. It will be disgrace to see ward committee members being at the forefront of service delivery protest which in essence is our duty to make sure that we inform the community of every development taking place in the constituency.

As indicated an induction session will be conducted where the responsibilities of the members will be outlined. Capacity building programmes will be organised during the tenure to equip you with information relevant to your function.

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We are confident that since you are inaugurated today, the Office of the Speaker will receive reports from your wards detailing successes and challenges in terms of service provision. We should commit today that we are going difference in our communities by putting people first and changing the lives for better.

On behalf of the Council and the people of Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Municipality I take this opportunity to welcome you on this journey which is exciting and on the other hand having challenges that will define our character and build residence. I wish you all the best.

I thank you

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