



FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Mayor`s opening remarks at the Youth Council Conference, Karibu Leisure Resort, 09 June 2021

Programme Director

Madame Speaker

Chief Whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Representatives from Office of the Premier, NYDA, sector departments

Members of the Municipal Youth Council task team

Delegates representing Political parties and wards

Municipal officials

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all this important event happening in the month dedicated for youth activities. It has been long since we gathered in this fashion to discuss matters relating to youth development. This occasion would have taken place long time ago but because of the emergence of Corona virus, it had to be deferred back to comply with legislation and Covid 19 health protocols.

We are holding this conference in a period where a dark cloud has befallen on our Council and the Municipality at large. Yesterday we woken up with the sad news of the passing of Councillor Magatane Mamogale who served as the head of Budget and Treasury in our Municipality. He was an integral part of our Executive Committee and also oversaw the establishment of many ward based youth forums and whose members are in this hall today.

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We do not have enough words to express our shock and disbelief on his passing and we would like to take this moment to send our heartfelt condolences to his family and close relatives. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

On the 28th February 2020, the Council took a resolution to appoint a Municipal youth council task team with an objective to establish ward based youth forums and subsequent election of the Municipal task team. Members were drawn from Political parties constituting the Council and other progressive youth formations in our area. Unfortunately due to the emergence of the Corona virus and the nationwide lockdown declared by the President, all activities had to be shelved to comply with legislation. Our initial target was to have a fully functional Council by end of May 2020 but it was not to be.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the task team for showing passion, resilience and dedication to the work given to them. Despite the challenges experienced on the way, you have successfully managed to realise the mandate given to you by Council hence our presence in this assembly today. Praise must be given to Executive Committee members who played an oversight role during the ward based establishments and our officials for working tirelessly around the clock to make this a possibility.

We are here today with a sole purpose to establish a Municipal Youth Council which must champion the interest of young people in our jurisdiction without favour, bias, gender and race. We want to establish a structure that will impact positively on the lives of the young people across the spectrum. There are so many challenges that are confronting the youth and this Youth Council must become a voice for the voiceless.

Fetakgomo Tubatse is the largest Municipality in the Sekhukhune District in terms of size and population. Our current statistics as per 2016 Community survey is at 429 471 population and with 118 659 of those as young people between the age of 15 to 35. This is a significant number as it represents 40% of the total population of our Municipality. This simply says that our population is predominantly youth and all efforts must be made to cater for group. We want to stay at the back of the mind of the Committee which is going to be constituted out of this conference.

We will work hand in glove with the incoming Committee to ensure that matters relating to youth development are prioritised and taken care of.

We must move away from electing people who will stand for their own interest and forget about the masses who are desperate for information and opportunities. We want people who will strive to make difference in the lives of others and transform our society. The future belongs to the youth and this is your time to show that the country will be in safer hands.

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We also want to implore you to use this conference days to debate and deliberate on policies and programmes that will assist the incoming youth Council to execute its mandate. It will be a lost opportunity for all of us if we do not engagement meaningfully on the activities of this conference.

Allow me to officially disband the Task team with powers bestowed on me by the Council on the 28th February 2021. It has been a tough year of your existence and despite all the troubles and challenges you managed to complete all the tasks given to you. On behalf on the Council I would like to thank you for all the efforts and dedication to this course until this moment.

I would like to wish this conference the best and may we emerge with a product that we will proud of.

Most importantly I want to remind everyone that Covid 19 is real and here to stay. We must at all times be ambassadors to prevent this virus from causing havoc in our society by preaching the important message of wearing masks, sanitizing and washing our hands and maintaining social distancing. This must be reflected during the course of this conference.

I thank you

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