

Mayor's address at the Batho Pele day celebrations, Shakung Village,  
01 November 2011

Programme Director

Madame Speaker

EXCO Members

MMC's from the District Municipality

Councillors

Officials from the Municipalities and Sector departments

Magoshi a rena

Setshaba ka moka

We are here to celebrate the Batho Pele as our commitment to bring services closer to the people. The Motto of our government is 'working together with our communities we can do more' and this precisely why we are here today to interact and deliver services to our communities. We have chosen to come to this village because we are fully aware of the challenges this community is facing. As government we would like to acknowledge that we have not yet reach a stage where we can say that our people are enjoying the fruits of the struggle.

Every year Batho Pele day is celebrated at areas that are still lacking in terms of service provision and the main objective is to indicate to the community that government still care for them. We have brought together sector departments who are at the coal face of delivery to come and render services that our people desperately need. Some of these services are not easy to reach because most of the offices are far away from our people.

For the next two days the departments will try their outmost best to see to it people benefit greatly from this initiative.

We are grateful as the Local Municipality because some of the concerns which our people are having will be answered in the next two days. The objective is for us to interact with citizens in order to address the concerns and promote access to government services.

In the past we used to visit communities but we did not have mechanism to report back to them, so we are here to give reports about the provision of services and the service standards.

We are aware that the services brought to this village will leave a long lasting legacy because for some it will for the first time Home Affairs and SASSA are in their vicinity to assist them in accessing important documents and grants. Our communities are impoverished and it is difficult and expensive to them to travel long distances to access services. We are all here today and we want our people to maximise the opportunity granted them.

Our duty is not to bore you with long speeches but to get our hands dirty by providing services that our people deserve. Let us all embrace the opportunity given to us through the services offered by various sector departments.

**I thank you**