

## MAYOR'S ADDRESS TO THE BUSINESS PEOPLE, MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS, 14 NOVEMBER 2012

**Programme Director**

**Members of the Executive Committee**

**Ward Councillor of Ward 18**

**Business partners**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

We are happy to be part of this historic meeting today. It is historic in the sense that since the Council was inaugurated in June 2011; it is for the first time that we are meeting business community of Burgersfort which is the economic centre of our Municipality and the region as a whole. We value the role that you are playing in making our economy to grow and to create employment to our people.

We have arranged this meeting so that we can create a platform where we can work together to improve the outlook of the town and the Municipality as a whole. There are many things that we can benefit from your contribution. We would like to acknowledge that due to busy schedules that we both have, we could not meet but I hope that today marks the relationship will continue for many years to come.

We also acknowledge those who came up with the idea of this kind of a meeting and we appreciate your efforts. We have created a platform for you to raise your concerns and suggestions which will be taken into consideration and be implemented as a matter of urgency. I would like to bring the following matters to your consideration. The Municipality has invested a lot in terms of money and resources to improve the state of the Burgersfort town. Recently we have approved the construction of 3 malls which will impact heavily on infrastructure especially roads.

We have constructed a bypass that goes to the Burgersfort Mall through Burgersfort clinic. This road will ease the congestion that is experienced at the robots to the taxi ranks. We are already planning to construct another by pass from Auto zone passing behind Engen garage to the R555 road to Steelpoort.

We have experienced many potholes in our roads and whilst awaiting the appointment of Service provider for maintenance of our roads, our internal public works unit have started with the patching of the potholes yesterday and will continue to Steelpoort town. We are also experiencing the continuous stoppage of the traffic lights in town and at the moment we have appointed a service provider to fix all the traffic lights and street lights.

We are experiencing challenges in terms of hawkers. The way they are placed is a concern to all of us. We have identified new sites where we are going to relocate them and group them according to their commodities. We are going to rearrange open spaces into parks and accommodate certain trades for hawkers. We have conducted the informal trading study and the only stage left is the stakeholder engagement with the hawkers before we start with the relocation process.

Our long term plan with the assistance of the Provincial department of Roads and transport is to build an intermodal transport facility that will accommodate all forms all public transportation in town. This will assist with traffic flow because the taxi ranks will be relocated to the facility.

We have listened to your concerns and suggestions and as stated this is the beginning of our interactions and if possible we should meet monthly to reflect on progress and challenges.

I THANK YOU