

## Mayor's overview at the First Quarter EXCO Lekgotla, Marula Platinum Mine Boardroom, 10 November 2011

Programme Director

Madame Speaker

EXCO members

Chief Whip

Municipal Manager

Senior managers and other managers

Our host Marula Platinum Mine

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like welcome everybody to this august occasion to present and interrogate the first quarter reports of the 2011/12 financial year. This is first time the Political wing and Administration meet formally to track and trace progress made since this Council was inaugurated in June 2011.

Today we are making history because Council is meeting for the first time in facilities provided by our Social partner which is Marula Platinum Mine. We would like to pay our respect for the Mine for opening their hearts in allowing us to use their facilities for our EXCO Lekgotla and also providing us with other amenities to make our stay joyful. We hope that this interaction with the Mine will continue and be cascaded to other social partners. It is important for us as Council to interact with social partners like Marula Platinum Mine because they are assisting Government in accelerating the provision of basic services.

This interaction is giving us an opportunity to visit some of the flagship projects that the Mine has provided to our communities like water and electrification projects. We would like to thank them in advance for the good work in uplifting our communities and urge you to continue doing more. One of the important priorities of government is to eradicate poverty and create job opportunities. The Marula Platinum Mine has in this regard employed many people drawn from the local communities and we can attest that poverty has been greatly reduced.

We are holding this EXCO Lekgotla some days after the conclusion of 3 major IGR structures in the Province and the District. We have participated in the Mayor's forum, District EXCO Lekgotla and the extended Provincial Lekgotla which all have

taken resolutions that needed immediate implementation and introspection on how we govern the Municipality.

The District Lekgotla has noted the slow provision of water by the District Municipality which is affecting development of major projects in our jurisdiction. We must come up strategies to engage the District Municipality to speed up the provision of water in order to alleviate the current crisis we are facing.

The major concern raised by the Extended Provincial Lekgotla is on the financial and contract management where we are facing major challenges. The Provincial has committed to assist us in this regard but as the Municipality we must develop ways to improve on this aspect. We are on quest to achieve clean audit by 2014 and such matters must be immediately rectified. I have interacted with the Office of the Auditor General to look into issues raised by his office which needs the attention of all.

We would like to call upon the Political wing to play their oversight role by making sure that all departments conduct business and observe financial management in a proper way. We want all Portfolio heads to take the lead and the Chairperson of Finance to be the champion of clean audit. We cannot wait for 2014 to come but we must use the 2011/12 financial year to achieve unqualified opinion.

Our main purpose of being here is to reflect on the performance of the Municipality in the first quarter of the current financial year. This should not only be the session where the politicians and administration meet to review the performance but we must involve other Section 80 committees like the Audit and Municipal Public account committees to also review and scrutinise the report.

After that we must develop programmes to engage the communities to play their part by reviewing the reports. This will strengthen our interaction with our constituencies and assist in dispelling the negative perceptions that people have.

It is time to do things in a different and positive way. We cannot wait for the people to raise complains about the quality of our projects when they are completed but their involvement should be in the life cycle of every project.

Last week the District and the Local Municipalities organised Media breakfast to reflect on the achievements made in 100 days the Councils where in office. The session has shown that much has been done and there are still many challenges that our communities are facing. We have been hiding under the tag of being the ``new Council ``. We must declare today that we are no longer going to use the excuse of being new because much has been learnt over the 100 days. The honeymoon is over and now we must roll up our sleeves to make sure that the communities of Greater Tubatse get the services that they deserve.

This session should be not only be a matter of compliance but it should be our commitment to serve our communities by delivering basic services to them. As stated we are going to strengthen our public participation mechanisms to make sure

that our people are informed of what is taking place in our Council. We hope that the two days of this session will produce quality and informed reports that all will be proud of. I would like to wish the session a success and declare the First EXCO Lekgotla of the 2011/12 financial year officially opened.

**I thank you**