

**SPEECH BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE OCCASSION OF COMMUNITY
SERVICES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AT LEBOWAKGOMO KFC
PARK.**

26 OCTOBER 2012

Programme Director;

Honourable Speaker, Mme Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana;

Our Chief Whip; Veteran Molaba;

Members of Executive Committee;

Our Traditional Leaders;

Fellow Councillors;

Municipal Manager Ntate Ramaphakela and Executive Managers present here;

Members of Ward Committees;

Community Development Workers;

Our Officials;

Media fraternity;

Members of the Community;

Our Sponsors;

Distinguished Guests;

Comrades and Friends;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

DUMELANG !

Thank you very much for inviting me to this majestic gathering of the community services awareness campaign.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone present in this campaign. We thank you very much for heeding the call from the Community Services Department.

In his book titled the Capitalist Nigger, Chika Onyeani wrote “We consume everything others produce and produce nothing that others could consume”, right now I am using a microphone, which I am sure was not invented in Lepelle-Nkumpi or by person originating from our municipality, and the proceeds from selling these products does not by anyway benefit our community.

As South Africans, especially Lepelle-Nkumpi residents, we are still trapped in this culture of buying what others have produced and produce nothing that others could consume. Our roads infrastructure are made from tar ingredients which we cannot mix ourselves, the machinery and plant that we use in collecting our refuse or cutting our grasses, all are invented by foreign nationals. Time has come for us to do things for us without using foreign materials or services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered here today to raise awareness about the services rendered by one of our department in the municipality, being Department of Community Services.

Purpose of this Department amongst others is to provide efficient and effective community services to the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, the implementation of integrated waste management plan within the Municipality, managing and monitoring of environmental health matters within the area of our jurisdiction, management of the provision and maintenance of community and recreational facilities and traffic services.

As government we are for crafting sound and progressive policies and yet we are always faulted for poor coordination between our department including poor monitoring and evaluation. To circumvent that, I am informed that Department of Community Services have developed the departmental service standards of which they want the community to engage, with the view of identifying some gaps and make necessary recommendation for improvement.

It is within this context that in order for us to remain relevant to our constituencies, it is critical that we deepen and strengthen democratic structures that give our people a voice. We must ensure that a void and a social distance do not develop between us as community leaders and the people we represent.

The ward committees and other legal structures at the local level must be kept alive through information sharing. This will assist us in walking hand in hand with our people. Everything starts at street and ward committee level and if we do not get our ducks in a row at that critical stage, we run the risk of not being understood by the same people who put their faith in us to represent them.

I therefore urge all of you to work with and not against, support and comply with all the structures that are aimed at making us better. Accountability and oversight structures need not be seen as monsters that are out to get us. They have been created and put in place to ensure that both the administration and councillors are held to account on the delivery of services to communities.

Lastly Programme Director, I would like to congratulate all of you for accepting the task of working for the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi. It is the indication of your commitment in changing the conditions under which our people live. I look forward to more of productive interaction with you. We are your servants and it is only through mutual respect that we can take Lepelle-Nkumpi to unimaginable heights.

THANK YOU!

KE A LEBOGA!