

MAYOR PHAAHLA IVY's CLOSING REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF 2012/2013 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION AT THE RANCH HOTEL, POLOKWANE ON 18 MAY 2012.

We have just concluded our successful 2012/2013 strategic planning session, an important legislative requirement which assists us to clearly set goals for the next financial year as it will be captured in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

As per the expectation and practice, we as politicians received reports on what has been done and plans on what, and how is it going to be done from management. Our key interest as politicians is to measure performance against the set targets. This strategic planning session was a success in the sense that it has been able to make critical appraisal of the work done for the last twelve months and also pave the way on what needs to be done moving forward. The important contributions you have made cannot be overemphasised.

This month we are marking our first year into office as the Council elected in 2011. Like I said in the opening address that The President in His State of the Nation Address emphasised what is expected from us as Local Government practitioners. All of us, both as councillors and officials have a responsibility to ensure that we contribute in deepening of democracy by delivering on the mandate given to us.

Programme Director, the President of the ANC, on the occasion of the Centenary Celebration made a number of pronouncements on key developmental areas, amongst them job creation, fighting poverty and infrastructural development. As a sphere of Government, we have a direct responsibility in ensuring that we

contribute to job creation and infrastructural development in our country and thereby fighting poverty and improving people's lives. In responding to President's speech, we need to ensure as a Municipality that at the centre of our policies, programs and projects is job creation for our people.

The Strategic Planning Session raised number of critical issues and correctly took resolutions which should help us to accelerate the pace of service delivery. The emphasis was more on implementation than re-starting theoretical debates. This is based on the fact that we are aware of the extend of service delivery in our Municipality and necessary policies and strategies have been developed to address them. Infrastructural development is core for local government developmental agenda and therefore needs to be strengthened so that there should be sufficient capacity to respond to massive challenges of basic service delivery especially water, sanitation, roads and storm-water. We must as a matter of urgency remove all obstacles that make us to collect revenue. If a meeting of minds is needed to address such, let it be, for the sake of our community. PEOPLE FIRST, OTHERS WILL FOLLOW.

Programme Director, we need as a matter of urgency to improve on our revenue generation mechanism. It is very clear that we will not be able to address all our developmental challenges if we rely 100% on grants. We need to ensure that our Local growth strategy as well as LED Strategy is linked to the LGEP, which is an important blue print of our Province's economic development.

We have emphasised the important matter of sound financial management. Once more I want to emphasise it on the side of our Administration to ensure that this important area is given necessary attention it deserves. We are entrusted with the responsibility of

taking care of public funds and as such we need to manage them effectively and efficiently within the ambits of the law. We will not be able to attract investors if we are unable to manage public resources in a responsible way.

The message we are sending is very clear, that all Departments need to work much more efficiently and effectively within the limited resources we have. Moving out of this Planning Session, we want to see Executive Management steering the ship with much more vigour, determination and resoluteness in addressing service delivery challenges which are facing our communities.

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY BACK HOME!!!!!!

LET US TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DISEASES!!!!!!

ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND!!!!!!!!!!

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES !!!!!!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!!!!!