

Welcome Address by Mayor of Lepelle –Nkumpi Municipality

Date: 28 August 2006

Event: Ward Committee Induction Workshop

Venue: Civic Center

Program Director, Speaker of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality Chief Whip of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality
Members of Executive Committee Members of Council Municipal Officials Ward Committees

Allow me to take this given opportunity to welcome all of you here today. It is gatherings of this magnitude that gives me courage and confidence when it comes to matters of service delivery within our municipality. It is also important for one to indicate that your presence here demonstrates your commitment to serve the people of South Africa in general and Lepelle-Nkumpi in particular. When we started the process of establishing ward committees we knew that, at one stage we will need to provide an induction workshop for you so that you are able to play meaningful role towards the bettering of our people's lives.

You knew that, to serve in the ward committee you will not receive any form of a salary but yet you agreed to be part of these organs of delivery. That in itself shows that you are true South Africans and you want to develop your Country. We should guard against wrong perceptions and tendencies. I am deliberately raising this matter with you because in other parts of the country ward committee members view themselves as opposition groups to ward councilors and some goes to an extend of using ward committees as a stepping ladder for them to become councillors in the near future. It is only people with this kind of aspirations that will reduce ward committee meetings into an unnecessary political battlefields.

Program Director, The process of establishing ward committees was a very complex one and difficult in some wards .However we have managed to achieve our mandate as required by law and other guidelines .While agreeing that we have drawn all community based organizations into this process however some sections of our communities saw this process as part of their politicking whereas others saw it as a way of developing their communities. Let us stop this tendencies that are aimed at dividing our people .I am appealing to all of you to ensure that you create an atmosphere that will allow everybody to work freely with you. When you're at your wards you should ensure a maximum co-operation with your ward councillors . Let us avoid confusing our people because of our selfish interests, the only thing that we can do is to unite and support them.

This induction workshop Program Director, demonstrates our commitment towards our people .Precisely because once we have capacitated ward committees they will be in a better position to render effective services to their constituencies. It is my believe and conviction that , Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality will look into all programs that seeks to support ward committees and when resources are available we will definitely channel them into such programs. Let us work hand in hand so that we are able to move forward.

Program Director, It will be wrong of me if I will not acknowledge all women that are in this hall. We have formed part of many celebrations pertaining to women's month and we still wish we can continue to do so. To all men stop treating women like your punching bags and treat them as equal to you and as mothers, sisters and daughters. We owe it to them because the freedom that we are enjoying currently was mainly influenced by women. Madam Speaker as we are drawing the end of women's month, we need to encourage everybody to continue treating women like they did during the entire month.

Program Director ,Let this workshop be a successful one and I hope that indeed it will be successful. We will continue to support programs of this nature and we will always strive for unity amongst our people.

I thank You