

**WELCOME REMARKS TO THE POLICY CONFERENCE AT MANDAZUR BY THE
MAYOR, CLLR P.B. MABENGU ON THE 25 NOVEMBER 2009**

Speaker

EXCO Members

Councillors

Management

Staff

Ladies & Gentlemen

Today's workshop takes place in the context of 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women and Children. It is therefore my wish and hope that all of us hear today will make an effort both on an individual and official capacities.

In this regard let us emulate what Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe at the launch of the men's forum in Johannesburg. The Deputy President said real men do not abuse women and inflict pain on children. On the contrary, real men protect, defend and promote the rights of children and women as visualized in the constitution of our country.

We are also approaching the end of the year and I'm hoping that we will soon get together and take stock of all our achievements during the course of the year and gear up ourselves in preparation for the forthcoming year.

It is worth mentioning that year 2010 presents numerous challenges and opportunities for the three spheres of government if one considers that FIFA World Cup Games are starting in June and also the fact that preparations for the 2011 Local Government Elections will start in earnest.

Local Government in general and municipalities in particular are facing a mammoth task. It is imperative that we put our house in order. I therefore want to believe that this policy conference is intended to enhance our performance and to position us to achieve greater heights in terms of discharging our duties for the delivery of services to our community in order to build a better life for all.

The manifesto and the policy pronouncements of the democratic state require us to expedite the delivery of services and effective administration without compromising the quality and efficiency as dictated to by the Batho Pele Principles.

Chapter 10 of the Constitution Act 108 of 1996 demands of us to provide public administration and good governance that is governed by democratic values and principles that include a high standard of professional ethics. Critical to this is a public administration that is development – oriented.

Policy development for any progressive organization is the life blood for that organization to respond to the needs of the people.

Our system of government requires us to render public administration that is responsive and accountable.

Policy development and review, which is our business and main focus over these few days must help us to do things better and that is why I want to appeal to you to direct your energies for the realization of the objectives of this conference because failing which this will be a futile exercise.

My colleagues will remember that the Municipal Finance Management Act N0.56 of 2003 does not mince words when spelling out the outcomes of people who commit wasteful and fruitless expenditure.

It is important to note that there is a difference between crafting a policy and implementing it. I'm saying this without any fear of contradiction because most of these policies we are reviewing today have not been fully implemented.

Let us from now onwards begin a new chapter and develop a new culture of ensuring that all policies, programmes and projects can find their way to the full implementation.

In conclusion, I must take this opportunity of welcoming you all to this important session of our municipality.

I want to believe that the outcome of the proceedings of these few days will make a difference in terms of our institutional capacity on matters related to policy development and policy implementation.

With those few words you are all welcome.

I THANK YOU