

CLOSING REMARKS BY FETAKGOMO MAYOR CLLR SEFALA KUKIE RAESETJA ELIZABETH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2014/15 FOURTH MID -YEAR LEKGOTLA HELD ON THE 15th JANUARY 2015 AT MOHLALETSI THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE.

Ladies and Gentlement,we have just concluded our successful one day mid-year performance lekgotla,an important legislative requirements which assist us to clearly set goals for the next financial year as it will be captured in the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan(SDBIP).Planning ahead is central to the execution of the municipal programmes.

The strategic planning session was a success in the sense that it has been able to make critical appraisal of the work done by the entire staff establishment for the past six months.

Despite some challenges confronted without shadow of doubt we have been able to consider Mid-Year Performance Report, take stalk on the implementation of the previous lekgotla,review organisational structure for the next IDP cycle and also interacted with our social partners(Bokoni,Twickenham and Elephant River Granite).

This session raised number of critical issues and correctly took resolution not box ticking which should help us to accelerate the pace of service delivery. Infrastructure 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 on human rights issues like access to portable water, sanitation, roads and storm water.

We must as a matter of extreme urgency remove all obstacles that make us to collect revenue. If a meeting of minds is needed to address such let it be so for the sake of our community hence People First,Others shall follow.

Municipal Manager and the entire Managers, we need as a matter of extreme urgency deals with our revenue generation mechanism. It is very clear that we will not be able to address all our developmental challenges if we still rely on traffic functions only.

We need also to ensure that our local growth strategy as well as local economic strategy is linked to the broader Limpopo Development Plan

Framework-which is an important blue print of our province's economic development. The recently launched document serve as a single reference point for policy-makers in government, civil society, private sector with regard to development priorities for Limpopo bearing in mind that development is about people. One of the key focus areas of LDP is to create sustainable economic development, reducing unemployment and eradicate poverty

Development Planning we need to launch Back to Basic so that we service our communities better before the end of the third quarter of financial year. This serves as a route to 2016 local government election.

Finally, our mandate that we derive from the constitution of the republic and other laws that govern local government have made us to realise that we exist for one reason and that is, to serve our communities and change their lives for the better. We are therefore servant leaders and may our stewardship and sustainability embrace the noble objectives of developmental local government.

This outcome of this strategic planning session will guide us in our quest for a better life for all. With this tool, we will remain focused on ensuring that we deliver on our mandate. Key to this strategy would be development of the program of action which will guide implementation by various programs and ensures that their programs are synergised with the municipal broad strategies. Adequate attention must also be put on ensuring that a sufficiently resourced structure has to be developed for the implementation of the plan. In this regard, the major tasks for the departments will be to implement their specific line function responsibilities.

I sincerely believe that the implementation of our well diagnosed and synthesised strategic plan will make our municipality to grow from strength to strength. It must be embedded on these deliberate efforts that our municipality must embrace this strategy. The results must be realized in the current term of office in order to create a better platform for the others who will come after us.

A government that residents can trust act honestly, openly and to spread their tax dollar wisely and carefully. People have bestowed their trust on us with considerations that local government is the closest sphere of government to the people and their first point of contact with

communities hence we shall neither fail nor falter in our pursuit to fulfil their mandate.

One of the factor that make a good municipality is community satisfaction. People must be able to see that their councillors and municipal officials are care for them and are responsive to their needs.

Since 2000 we have made tremendous progress and this was confirmed by Stats SA survey released in September 2014 that services rendered by municipalities have reduced poverty. To qualify these results Fetakgomo was able to employ 80 people in the construction learnership coming from poor families. Recently we have advance in employing 495 learnership in the form of EPWP for two years coming also from poor families for road maintenance.

Hard working municipal councillors and employees have contributed to these achievements.They demonstrated that Fetakgomo exist to serve the people and people do not exist to serve municipality.

However not all is well and much remains to be done.The back to basic approach becomes the solution which focuses on five broad areas namely:

- Putting People First and Engaging with the community
- Delivering Basic Services
- Good Governance
- Sound Financial Management andBuilding Capabilities.

In conclusion we have seen Bafana Bafana qualifying for AFCON 2015 with an undefeated record finishing top in Group A. However we still have a bigger challenge of qualifying for World Cup in 2018.We wish you well and hope we will reach the final.

To draw from Tata Madiba:We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success

I also encourage all of you to attend the matric award giving ceremony at Moses Mabothe at 09h00 tomorrow and funerals over the weekend

I officially closed the session and drive safely

I thank you.