

**ADDRESS BY MEC FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING Mme
MAITE NKOANA MASHABANE ON THE OCCASION OF THE
PROVINCIAL VUNA AWARDS TO BE HELD ON THE 27 NOVEMBER
2008 AT THE RANCH HOTEL POLOKWANE.**

Program Director

Members of the Executive Council

Executive Mayors

Mayors

Speakers and Councillors

Officials from our Government

Friends from the Media

Distinguished guests

Comrades and friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

The ANC contested the march 1st Local Government Elections with "A plan to make local government work better for all". It is this plan to make a better

life for all that made our people to affirm the ANC with an electoral mandate to eradicate poverty, unemployment underdevelopment.

We have entered into a contract with our people to provide basic services for all while our people have a concomitant responsibility to pay for services rendered. It is this contract that we agreed to honor as partners to improve the lives of our people. We have always maintained that our people are their own liberators.

Program Director

The 2007/08 Vuna Awards presents another opportunity for the municipalities in particular and for the Local Government sector as whole to take stock of progress made towards the delivery of services. It provides all of us with the invaluable opportunity to take stock of actual progress made against the set of strategic objectives and related service delivery targets set in the IDP as well as through the Municipal Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan at beginning of the financial year.

Indeed substantial progress has been recorded in terms of municipal transformation and institutional development. Substantial improvement has been recorded across the province with regard to the filling of Top Management Posts; Appointment of Municipal Managers remains at 100% while the appointment of Chief Financial Officers, improved from 80% to 93% with 2 who are suspended namely; Capricorn and Makhuduthamaga. The following CFO posts remain vacant; Polokwane and Molemole; the appointment of Technical Managers have improved from 77% to 96%.

With regard to employment equity the appointment of women in s57 managers improved from 22% to 32% across the province while the appointment of women in general has improved quite substantial over the three year period.

Integrated Development Planning

The IDP assessment process shows that there is significant progress made by the municipalities with regard to the development of credible IDPs:-

- 83% of IDPs are credible compared to 17% in the 2006/07 financial year
- 83% of municipalities have functional PMS framework compared to 50% in Oct 2007 however that the PMS has been applied in the main to the Section 57 Managers, it has not cascaded to all the personnel within municipalities.
- 27% of municipalities have conducted 2007/08 performance reviews for s57 managers
- 63% of municipalities have completed Performance Agreements for 2008/09 financial year while the Department is providing hands on support to the remaining municipalities.

Basic service delivery and infrastructure development:

The provision of access to clean water is constantly improving across the province although at rate slower than desired. During the 2007/08 financial year the total number of households with access to clean water increased

from 72% to 73% across the province while districts areas recorded progress as follows:

- Vhembe: 77% to 78%
- Capricorn : 50% to 51%
- Waterberg: 88% to 89%
- Sekhukhune 50% to 51%
- Mopani: 84% to 85%

Similarly the total number of households with access to electricity has increased over the period under re-view from although at a slower rate as well as:

- Vhembe: 77% to 78%
- Capricorn : 80% to 81%
- Waterberg: 77% to 79%
- Sekhukhune 73% to 75%
- Mopani: 74% to 75%

Access to sanitation in general and in particular in the rural areas remains a critical challenge hence the department has initiated a programme aimed at enhancing service delivery with regard to sanitation for the rural areas. The province is at 43% which is a substantial improvement compared to 40% in the 2006/07 financial year. However it must be noted that there biggest challenge is fast tracking service delivery in the rural areas. The focus of the pilot programme on rural sanitation should be able to provide strategies for rural sanitation for those municipalities which are based in the rural areas.

Program Director

Pro-Poor Policies

Access to Free Basic Services by the poor households has improved quite substantially across the province. Vhembe has served 95% of the household with water over the period under-review, while in contrast Sekhukhune remains the critical area in relation to basic water provision.

LED Programme

- **Spatial Development Framework** - has improved from 70% in Oct 07 to 93% to date
- **Land Use Management Schemes** - recorded an improvement from 36% to 50% - the Department has noted that this area requires dedicated focus.
- **LED Strategies**- improved from 86% to 96% due to the hands-on support provided over the past financial years
- **Limpopo EU/LED programme:-**
 - R70,3m out of the committed R151 million has been disbursed to beneficiaries
 - 81 projects have been approved and 1,299 jobs were created.

Financial Viability and Financial Management

While the Department continues to provide support to municipalities in this regard, there is a need to develop a strategic focus on the implementation of financial management in the municipalities.

- 19 municipalities have commenced with the implementation of the MPRA
- 7 are currently being assisted by the department to commence in the 2009/10 financial year.

- R7, m spent in 2007/08 and R 4, 5 m spent in 2008/09 for the development of Valuation Rolls.
- 7 municipalities are currently being assisted by the department to commence in the 2009/10 financial year.

Program Director

On Good Governance and Public participation

The Premier Intergovernmental Forum is coordinated to be held twice a year. The forum is being used to assess progress on service delivery and to what extent are able to ensure participation of the public in governance structures. The Provincial Planning Forum coordinates sector integration, that is G&A, Social And Economic clusters.

District Mayors Forum has been established in the following areas, Mopani, Vhembe and Sekhukhune. We urge other districts to follow suit and municipalities to attend these meetings when convened to enable them to share information.

Program Director

The year 2009 is around the corner and the term of the democratic government led by the ANC is coming to an end. We are urged to begin with election preparations and ensure that they run smoothly without any incidences of disruptions by those who already know that they are attempting to occupy the opposition benches because they would have lost.

You are urged to embark on a campaign to help those who are unable to register to do so and those who have registered must turn in their numbers in the polls and vote correctly to renew the current mandate of the democratic movement, the ANC. The vote for this democratic government is a vote for continuation of a better life for all.

I thank you.