

ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



ADDRESS BY SPEAKER OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI CLLR MAGETLE TLADI TO THE 4TH ELIAS MOTSOLEDI WARD COMMITTEE CONFERENCE OF THE TERM 2016-2021, HELD ON THE 19 JUNE 2019 AT GROBLERSDAL DLU HALL AT 9H00

We are gathered here two months after successfully holding the 6th National and Provincial elections, which were declared free and fair by our electoral agency, the IEC and intentional observers. Let us take this opportunity to congratulate all parties that contested the elections for their respect of the electoral laws, and accepting the elections outcomes, and also congratulate the ANC for winning the elections.

Colleagues, let us also congratulate one of our own, Hon Thabo Nelson Mmutle who has been elected as a member of the 6th Democratic National parliament. We wish him and the collective good luck with the mammoth task ahead of ensuring that the lives of our people are transformed for the better, and of ensuring that our hard earned democracy is safe guarded. However, the obligation to safe guard the democracy should not be left entirely to members of parliament or be outsourced to observers and rating agencies.

Program director, public participation is the chief content of our democracy and ward committees' are protagonists of active citizenry.

The Constitution of the republic, is the supreme law of the republic. The constitution, Chapter 7 section 152 dictates that local sphere of government must established, termed municipality which is an organ of state within a local sphere of government exercising legislative and executive authority within an area determined in terms of the Local Government Municipal Demarcations act, and its objectives are;

- To provide a democratic and accountable government for local communities
- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner

- To promote special and economic development
- To promote safe and healthy environment
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in all matters of local government

Colleagues, seated here having listened to the presentation, no one can dispute that we were discussing all these objective of establishment of municipalities like we did in the past conferences.

Mayor and guests, today we are hosting the 4th conference since our establishment as Elias Motsoaledi Ward Committee structure for the term 2016-2021. Amongst the questions that would ordinarily come to one's mind is that, is the expenditure incurred on the conferences warranted. I assert without fear of contradiction that the money was well spent, and in support is the following pieces of evidence;

- continually reports are being submitted monthly before the 7th to the office of the speaker monthly and ward committee functionality reports are submitted to council quarterly. Whilst still on submission of ward committee reports there are best performing wards and worst performing wards which I am intending to mention at the end of my speech.
- In my address to our last conference at Zithabiseni I mentioned to conference that our office was inundated with complains about the conduct of ward committees by councillors, by community members and even by fellow ward committee members. To indicate that the training ward committees receives in the conferences is beneficial to them, there has not been a single complain since we left Zithabiseni. We however do not dispute that proper accredited training is still required.
- The findings by our internal audit department, when Auditing activities of the office of the Speaker. It was found that some Ward committees do not have Ward operational plans, whilst in other wards it was found that the monthly reports do not correspond with the ward operational plans. Mayor let me mention that now after the last conference only a few of wards still has that problem.

Colleagues the new financial year 2019/2020 is starting in July and it is expected that all wards submit their reviewed ward operational plans for the 2019/2020 financial year. If there are ward committee secretaries that still need assistance to develop the ward operational plans must consult the officials in the office of the speaker or we can even call COGHSTA to workshop us again. The ward operational plans release the stipend and reports justifies the expenditure incurred.

Colleagues, the stipend amount of R 1000 is no longer sufficient to enable Ward Committees to execute their duties. In the last conference I made a commitment to

seriously look in the issue and to instruct the officials in my office to make it possible that the stipend be increased. I made it clear to them that a report that it's not possible is not an option, what I want is how are they going to fund the stipend increase, within the law.

I must say I am pleased with the progress made and I promise that soon there will be an increment, as soon as there are comments from Cogsta because we want to do things properly. I know colleagues are asking themselves all those processes but I refer colleagues to Notice 364 of 2009 / gazzete 32112 "National framework- guidelines for provinces and municipalities in the implementation of ward funding model".

In Closing colleagues, we must be truthful that there are stipend collectors whom do not work when assigned to, whom do not attend meetings. The same gazzete empowers us to withheld the stipend of members who did not sign the attendance register without an attached apology. When we check your registers we see it's the same people who signs and same people who do not sign, and secretaries and ward councillors are not reporting them maybe because they are afraid of them.

I am proposing to you that we pay only those that have signed attendance register and those that have sent apologies that are attached to the registered. I'm not proposing this because we want to be punitive but because we fail to answer questions from Auditors on why do we pay people whom we can't proof that are working.

THANK YOU