

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR, CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE,
DURING THE WARD COMMITTEE CONFERENCE HELD AT
AGRICULTURAL HALL ON THE 19TH JUNE 2019

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

COUNCIL SPEAKER

EXCO MEMBERS

CHIEF WHIP & WHIPPERY

COUNCILLORS

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER & YOUR TEAM

REPRESENTATIVES FROM COGHSTA

LADIES & GENTLEMEN

It is my pleasure and humility that I take this opportunity of expressing a few words of opening and welcome to this strategic gathering of the 4th ward committee conference of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality .

This year's Annual Ward Committees' Conference take place in the month that undoubtedly define South Africa as we see it today – JUNE – which is suitably referred to as Youth's Month. The contribution made by 1976 Soweto youth in the struggle for liberation is immeasurable, Today we salute : Hector Peterson, Mbuyisa Makhubu, Tsietsi Mashinini and all the youth of 1976, whose sacrifices ensured we could be free today. It is their direct contributions and of successive generations that allow us to sit here today as free men and women.

Hon: speaker

Ward committees, are part of the success story as you are the most important conveyor belt between the community and the municipality. Ward Committees are in essence established to help improve communication between local municipalities and communities.

Ward Committees help enhance public participation which is a vital part of our democracy, which allows for citizens to be involved in how their communities are governed.

It is also an important pillar of Back to Basics approach, which emphasizes putting people first, and promoting good governance. Although ward committees are important role players in a community, most people don't know much about how they function within each municipal ward.

Hon Speaker

Chapter four of the ward committee resource book states that because of the wide range of municipal functions and powers, many interest groups could claim an interest in municipal matters so it makes sense that ward committees are formed with residents at the helm. It further states that each ward committee should have a maximum of 10 members who are selected from a broad range of interest groups that are most relevant to the key performance areas of the municipality. In turn, these key performance areas in a ward are identified through the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and implementation process. The areas include municipal services such as water, electricity, housing, sanitation, roads, stormwater and drainage. Social services that are of vital importance include health, safety and security.

Local Government: Municipal Structures Act no.117 of 1998, requires Municipalities to develop mechanisms to consult communities and community organisations in performing their functions and exercising its powers.

Ward Committee members, you are the reason we are gathered here. We appreciate the sterling work you perform in your various wards. You, against all odds and as mentioned earlier, provide the vital link between Ward Councillors, the Community and the Municipality.

We are not oblivious of the fact that you also make it possible for members of communities to influence municipal planning in a manner, which best addresses, their needs. It is through you that our communication with communities has extremely improved. You remain the vital part in our quest to

remain at forefront in the public participation of this municipality . For that we say Keep it up!!!

As Municipality, we can now proudly say our democracy is getting stronger, mainly because there is a visible involvement of our communities in our planning processes like our Integrated Development Planning process as well as Public Hearings on the Annual Report. That is all made possible by your efforts, and we say, Thank You for that!!!

It is also encouraging to note that resolutions taken the previous year received the undivided attention of our administration . We also hope that this conference will positively influence and give perspective on what communities desire

Programme Director

On behalf of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, I take this opportunity to welcome everybody with hope and wish that after this conference members of the ward committee will be well armed with knowledge to effectively discharge your duties and help this Council to improve the lives of our communities;

I thank you