

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR DAVID TLADI DURING THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL AIDS COUNCIL OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY HELD ON THE 24 TILL 25 MARCH 2022 AT YAMI NAWE LODGE.

Honourable Speaker

Chip whip of council

EXCO Members

Honourable Councillors

Representative from Health department

Representative from Department of education

Representative from Department of justice

Representative from Department of Department of social development

Representative from SAPS

Officials

Let me greet you all

Programme Director

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this important occasion of the re-establishment of Local AIDS Council of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. We meet here today during one of the most significant months on South African calendar the 21st of March marks Human Rights Day and the 24th of March marks World TB Day.

Human Rights Day is especially significant as it provides us with an opportunity to highlight some of the most disturbing human rights violations that we need to eradicate violence against women and children, as well as stigma and discrimination, especially towards people living with HIV and TB.

Programme Director

The Limpopo Provincial Aids Council Policy framework of 2011 mandates municipalities to establish Local Aids Councils which will be chaired by the Mayor. The term of Office shall align with the council. The LAC (Local Aids

Council) shall serve as coordinating and advisory to the Municipality on issues related to HIV/AIDS-STI and TB. The LAC is a multi-sectoral respond to HIV/AIDS programs, it includes sector departments, Civil society sectors, and NGO's.

HIV and AIDS is a global challenge that is unprecedented. Its impact has changed the political, social, economic and cultural landscape of our society. Response to its multi faced challenges requires an unprecedented approach that brings together all sectors and sections of our society. Success to reduction of its spread and impact requires both leadership and commitment at all levels of society. Individual efforts cannot match the challenge posed by the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The impact of HIV and AIDS pandemic has a potential of reversing the achievements and progress that the human kind has made over centuries. The socio-economic development of our society is adversely affected by the spread and the negative impact of this pandemic.

Programme Director

All corners of the world are feeling the impact of HIV and AIDS as it destroys the future of their population and eliminating the economic achievements. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has affected the African continent in high proportions with the sub- Saharan region registering the highest incidences of HIV infection and death toll. High poverty levels, conflicts and poor infrastructural developing are some of the contributors toward the spread of the pandemic.

There is widespread consensus that the severity of the HIV and AIDS epidemic cannot be curbed by the government on its own. In light of this realisation, the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), the highest-level multispectral partnership body in South Africa, was established in 2000. Chaired by the Deputy President, its objectives include providing leadership, building consensus around HIV and AIDS policy and strategy matters, promoting intersectoral collaboration and overseeing the overall implementation and review of the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections. The establishment of SANAC in turn led to the creation of similar structures at provincial, District and local level. Today, many municipalities coordinate metro and local AIDS councils, but experience various difficulties in making the structures function effectively.

Programme director

It is also my responsibility as mayor to chair LAC meetings and delegate the chairing function when am unable to be there. Municipal representatives on the LAC also have responsibilities:

- To bring the perspective and technical expertise of their particular portfolio or department as it relates to HIV and AIDS;
- To identify opportunities to collaborate with citizen groups, councillors and other municipal departments;
- To develop a holistic vision of how to deal with HIV and AIDS in the community, and not see things only from their departmental perspective; and
- To propose policies to the local council, after thorough consultation with the community.

Other stakeholders play a major role based on the expertise and strengths in their specific areas of interest.

Programme director

Political leadership is vital for the LAC to fulfil its mandate, but elected leaders need to think very carefully about the kind of leadership they provide. Without the active involvement of political leaders in the structure, it would be difficult for an LAC's advice on policy matters to reach the agenda of the municipality and that of other government sectors

The fight against STIs, TB, HIV, and stigma are important in building lasting peace in relationships, in homes, in communities, and in societies. As we gather here today, we will again be laying a firm foundation on building lasting peace, creating model citizenry, and in unleashing the full potential of the people of Elias Motsoaledi and Limpopo.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all for availing yourselves in this important session.

I declare this gathering officially opened

Kea leboga