

“GOOD GOVERNANCE & ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IS EXPECTED FROM YOU”-MEC

BELA BELA: Limpopo MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Honourable Basikopo Makamu has officially launched the Waterberg District Intergovernmental Relations Forum in Belabela.

The role of the District Intergovernmental Relations Forum is to serve as a consultative forum for the district municipality and the local municipalities in the district to discuss and consult each other on matters of mutual interest, including draft national and provincial policy and legislation relating matters.

In his remarks, the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor Ngoako Taueastaola indicated that one of the key pillars of the National Development Plan is the building of a capable and developmental state.

Mayor Taueatsoala added that better coordination between the three spheres of government becomes vital in the efforts of fighting the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and equality.

“The Constitution of the RSA (Act 108 of 1996) clearly indicates that the national, provincial and local spheres of government are distinctive, interdependent and interrelated. Section 41(1) of the Constitution alludes to co-operation, mutual trust and good faith between these three spheres,” said Mayor Taueatsoala.

“Furthermore, based on the parameters created by the Constitution and the Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) Framework Act (Act No.13 of 2005) and key to concept of the Developmental State, the Waterberg District Municipality see it imperative to embark on a development planning, coupled with the policy imperative of coordination and integration between the three spheres of government,” continued Mayor Taueatsoala.

Mayor Taueatsoala further indicated that the IGR Act is intended to promote and facilitate co-operative decision making and make sure that policies and activities across all spheres encourages service delivery and meet the needs of citizens in an effective way. The mandate provided to this distinctive sphere of government is, that of facilitating and ensuring that service delivery take place in the Waterberg District Municipal Area.

“We converged here to resuscitate the District IGR Forum in the Waterberg as a vehicle to ensure an improved co-ordination of service delivery so we can promote the spirit of Inter-Governmental relations and make other stakeholders understand the role and importance of IGR in service delivery,” said Mayor Taueatsoala.

He added that it is therefore against this backdrop that, the initiative to launch the Waterberg District IGR Forum has commenced to close the gap on none functioning of the IGR in the Waterberg District Municipal Area.

“The IGR Act explains the principles of IGR and cooperative government, providing the basic architecture of IGR structures, procedures and policies for settling intergovernmental

disputes. IGR is an instrument for mobilising the distinctive efforts, capacities, leadership and resources of each sphere towards service delivery and government defined development objectives,” said Mayor Taueatsoala.

Mayor Taueatsoala indicated that the launch of IGR will help us achieve the following:

- ⌘ Improving coordination and management of all municipal relations with other spheres of government.
- ⌘ Facilitating information and knowledge sharing through inter-municipal cooperation.
- ⌘ Strengthening monitoring and alignment of the Integrated Development Programme (IDP) and the District Development Model which include mobilisation and sharing of scarce resources.
- ⌘ Promoting efficient lines of communication and alignment of all events that involve other spheres of government within the Waterberg District.
- ⌘ Ensuring efficient relations and sharing models of good practices from other municipalities and stakeholders.

Given the strategic role of IGR in facilitating integrated service delivery and development, the capacity of municipalities to manage IGR is of vital importance. For this reason, there is the need for a specific strategy to strengthen the functioning of the IGR system in respect of local government in the Waterberg District Municipal Area.

Mayor Taueatsoala added that the establishment of the IGR Forum is aimed at fostering co-ordination and co-operation between municipalities within Waterberg District Municipal Area, Sector Departments and other partners embroiled in development that are falling under its legal jurisdiction.

“It should and must be highlighted that all members that constitute the Waterberg District Municipality’s IGR structure will be fairly and equally treated and are expected when serving the structure to carry them in a professional manner,” Mayor Taueatsoala signed off.

All local Mayors within the Waterberg district, including the Executive Mayor have signed an IGR Declaration pledging their commitment to successful coordination and functionality of the District Intergovernmental structures and were officially sworn in by CoGHSTA MEC, Makamu.

Speaking during the event, Honourable MEC Makamu told the mayors to prioritise the attendance of intergovernmental meetings, upliftment of the financial health of the municipalities respectively and to ensure the quality of the lives of their community members.

MEC Makamu said this structure will also promote cooperative decision-making, to ensure the execution of policies through the effective flow of communication, to co-ordinate priorities and budgets across different sectors and the prevention of disputes and conflicts between spheres of government.

“It is vital to remember that you may belong to a political party, but while in office, your responsibility is not towards the political party you have sworn allegiance to, it is to your

entire community. The delivery of basic services and the general improvement of the quality of the lives of South Africans under your municipalities are obligations that fall squarely on you and myself,” said MEC Makamu.

“Local government is at the coalface of what and how the fine concept of governance and democracy are meant to be to our people. The freedom that we hold dear can only be truly fully manifested to our people, if local government functions as a peg for the provincial and national government’s full expression. Our democracy can only be fully expressed if our local government has a healthy financial outlook and provides the basic services that are the due to our communities,” added MEC Makamu.

MEC Makamu congratulated the Executive Mayor of the Waterberg District Municipality, local mayors under the district, Speakers and councillors in their various capacities for being elected in the positions they occupy.

“While it may have been a hard-fought victory for yourselves personally, it is however a call to service from the people who have elected you. I want to remind you that only good governance and ethical leadership is expected from all of you. In the main, the people of Capricorn District are looking upon this leadership that has gathered here today, for solutions to all their challenges. We dare not fail them,” said MEC Makamu.

MEC Makamu concluded the programme by conferring Mayoral chains to the Executive Mayor of the Waterberg District, Cllr Morris Mataboge, Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala, Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Alpheus Thulare, Bela Bela Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Gloria Seleka, Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Marlene Van Staden, Thabazimbi Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Tokkie Swanepoel.