

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, Me. FANISWA
CHAIWE OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT
IGR HELD ON THE 14 SEPTEMBER 2007, MANTSOPA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY AT 10H00.**

Executive Mayor of Mangaung, Me. Mothupi,
Mayor of Mantsopa, Ntate Mathee,
Speaker/Mayor of Naledi, Ntate Motlohi,
Mayoral Committee Members present,
Municipal Managers and officials from all municipalities in the District,
Officials from the Department of the Premier and also from Provincial
Department of Local Government and Housing,
Ladies and gentlemen,

One of American President, President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said,
"I take up my task in buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our
cause will not be suffered to fail among men. I feel entitled at
this juncture, at this time, to claim the aid of all and to say,
'Come then, let us go forward together with our united
strength.'"

Today as we meet at this important consultative meeting; I felt it
being proper to raise the importance of the Intergovernmental
Relations Forum as a tool that is meant to assist both of us in
accelerating the pace of service delivery, a platform that would enable
us to evaluate ourselves in terms of ascertaining the realization of the
five strategic objectives of the local government in ensuring a better
life for all South African citizens.

Indeed, it is a forum where as political heads and administrative heads
of our various institutions shall come together to review our

performance, share experiences and find uniform solutions to the societal problems of our people in the district. It is a platform that one can never compromise to become part of.

I am referring to these matters because; I am eager and confident that despite all odds, victory is certain. For us to be able to meet here today after number of attempts begins to show the sign of victory; and surely we shall triumph and one day dance to the rhythm of our collective efforts in changing the lives of our people to whom we are servants.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was in power, did sit back and wanted to understand what the nation was asking for from his leadership, and came to a conclusion as he states:

“This nation asks for action, and action now. Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously.”

It is indeed what our people asks for even today in our own communities; let us ascertain that we commit ourselves in ensuring we live up to this expectation jointly.

In terms of section 24 of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005) it is required of a district municipality to establish the District Intergovernmental Relations Forum with its Technical Committee that shall ensure the implementation of the decisions of the structure and report accordingly to the District

Intergovernmental Forum on all aspects related to good governance and international relations.

Programme Director, there are number of aspects on good governance that have to be addressed by the structure, amongst others the issue around the participation of traditional leaders in local government, acceleration of service delivery to our people, linking of the Integrated Development Plans of all municipalities.

We should by now have developed a programme in line with agreed rules, work methods and procedures as we acceded to through letters submitted to the district.

We need to really come together, plan and ensure the realization of our agreed objectives as we go along in government. This nature of a forum provide an opportunity for us as different municipalities and members of the same family of Motheo District, to ensure uniform approach in addressing common challenges of service delivery and development as one American Women Writers, Margaret Wheatly who once said;

"In this world, you and I make it up as we go along, not because we lack expertise or planning skills, but because that is the nature of reality, reality changes shape and meaning because of our activity. And it is constantly new. We are required to be there, as active participants. It can't happen without us and nobody can do it for us."

These words did inspire me particularly when I know that, whatever we are doing to better the lives of our people; it is a joint effort that require us to go along.

This meeting today also reflects the importance of joint planning and encourages the principle of good governance. We must ensure that, even after this District IGR Forum, we keep on consulting each other, share skills, information and ideas to better the lives of our people and make local government to work better for our people. Sir Winston Churchill once said,

“You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs – victory inspite of all terrors – victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.”

Like he said, I am convinced that victory is certain and we shall triumph if we work together with passion and commitment.

I therefore welcome you all to this important meeting that stand to determine the operational approach of the District Intergovernmental Forum and attend to issues of mutual concern collectively.

Let us all ensure that this financial year is the one that would be a stepping stone for an improved service delivery; where all shall have had their take in serving our people while fighting poverty and unemployment; furthermore wish all of us an enriched discussions and declare this meeting officially opened.

Thank you.