

## **OPENING ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR TO THE 2<sup>nd</sup> LEPHALALE SMME's PROCUREMENT SESSION**

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**Programme Director  
Madam Speaker  
Honourable Councillors  
Traditional Leaders  
Different Companies  
All our Investors  
SMME's present here**

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you and welcome you to this important session

Thank you for the opportunity to address local SMME's

The year 2016 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the constitution of the republic of South Africa. The signing took place in Sharpsville on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

Chapter 07 of the constitution contains the rule and the responsibility of local government.

As South Africans we are proud of our democracy and what we have achieved in a short space of time. Our democracy is functional, solid and stable.

The constitution, which has its foundation in the freedom charter, proclaims that South Africa belongs to all who live in it. A lot has been done to promote inclusion and a no-racial society.

Our municipality has been identified as a petrochemical cluster and attained the status of national development node.

The concentration of the development greatly facilitates interaction between our people and businesses and this must benefit both parties in the process and improving the quality of lives of our people, SMME's in particular.

Together we will make sure that we advance economic transformation of our area

We all agree that we have an economic agenda that we must achieve in our life time.

We must translate political emancipation into economic well-being for all in order to accelerate progress, deepen democracy and build a more inclusive society.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that we achieve economic freedom, but we should always be informed by relevant places of legislation that includes the mining charter.

We need to empower small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMME's) to accelerate their growth.

Economic transformation and local black empowerment remain a key part of all economic programmes of our municipality.

We urge big business to partner with our SMME's owned by women and youth, as part of broadening the ownership and control of our economy.

We call open all relevant stakeholders and forums to work together with local municipality.

No company is big enough or too small for us to engage. We can engage companies starting with Exxaro, Boikarabelo and Power Stations, up to EPWP WMA programme.

During his state of the Nation address in February 2015, the President of the Republic of South Africa, President JZ Zuma indicate the nine point plan and amongst others was a plan consists of

- Advancing beneficiation adding value to our mineral wealth
- How many local black companies are benefiting from you Exxaro, Medupi Power Station,
- Who is transporting your coal
- Who is providing the company with fuel, stationary, PPE, transport, e.t.c
- Who is benefiting from your RFQ's

Unlocking the potential of SMME's, Cooperative Township and rural enterprises

Our economic transformation programme seeks to promote a geographically inclusive economy

In conclusion

We are pleased with the commitment of the entire stakeholder in ensuring that we grow our local economy and create jobs in order to provide a better life for our people

Poverty is not natural, it is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.

Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.  
And we can be that great generation!

Let us commit ourselves to this cause and move Lephalale Forward,

**I THANK YOU**

**Cllr MOLOKO MAEKO**

**MAYOR**