



**MAYOR'S WELCOMING REMARKS: INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS FORUM LAUNCH HELD AT THE MATATIELE TOWN
HALL ON THE 4TH OF OCTOBER 2013**

HONOURABLE MEC QOBOSHIYANE

MAYORS PRESENT HERE

**PORTFOLIO HEAD IGR & POLICY FORMULATION FROM ALFRED
NZO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

CHIEF WHIP

ALL COUNCILLORS

**SUPERITENDANT GENERAL: ADVOCATE KHANYILE AND
MANAGEMENT**

MUNICIPAL MANAGERS- PRESENT

MATATIELE IGR FORUM MEMBERS

MATATIELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS

MATATIELE STAKEHOLDERS

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA (PRINT AND ELECTRONIC)

Allow me to warmly greet you all as we end the week which was marked as older person's week. The daily reports of violence and abuse suffered by elderly people are evidence that we must continually work to ensure a safer and more caring society. We urge communities to help government to eradicate violence against this group through reporting such crimes. Domestic violence in particular should not be treated as a private matter. It is a crime and must be reported to the police. As a nation we must unite towards creating a safer environment for all elderly people.

We are gathered here today to officially launch Matatiele IGR Forum, which is the outcome of the resolution taken by MUNIMEC in 2009 in Grahamstown that since the IGR Framework Act no 13 of 2005 is silent about the Local Municipalities establishing their own IGR Structures, the resolution gave the Local Municipalities a go ahead to establish their structures as we are the sphere which have a direct interaction with Communities.

The Municipality attempted to establish the IGR forum in 2010; however we experienced the challenge of non-attendance of departments to meetings. Nevertheless, in 2011 the Forum was revived and I can proudly say it is now functional; most of the departments are now using the platform effectively. The most important thing is that IGR forms part of the Municipal Manager's Performance Plan.

Honourable Councillors, you will all agree with me that as Matatiele Local Municipality we have a big role to play in making sure that our communities are well informed with government programmes to avoid unnecessary service delivery protests that we hear about on our radios, on television and when reading newspapers. It is our responsibility as we are all gathered here today that we should strengthen integration.

This government has achieved a lot since 1994 but we do not make enough noise of those achievements, consequently, a drastic communication strategy action plan should be developed in order to communicate these achievements and challenges. The strategy should prioritise engagements with all government stakeholders so as to speak in one, united and credible voice about government achievements.

Honourable MEC, allow me to extend a word of gratitude to your Office for supporting our Municipality in making sure that Terms of Reference for the IGR Forum are developed and well understood by all IGR members. Matatiele Local Municipality Council has approved these Terms of Reference as the document that will guide the processes and the sitting of the IGR Forum.

Programme Director,

Communications, IGR & Protocol Unit under the Municipal Manager's supervision has the responsibility to ensure that Government Departments operating within Matatiele are coordinated and government programmes are integrated. We therefore encourage the cooperation we are receiving from Government departments and request those that are still not cooperating to start recognising the need to be part of integration, especially as we are approaching the 2014 General Elections.

Furthermore, Programme Director, allow me to indicate to the House that we just recently embarked on IDP Community Outreach working together with government departments and our District Municipality. **Indeed working together we can achieve more for the benefit of our communities.**

The role that our Media is playing to push this developmental agenda is indeed noted.

Matatiele Stakeholders: the role that you are all playing in our Area is noted and highly appreciated.

Compatriots, As we launch this Structure today, let us remember that the people of our Municipality are waiting for services and it will be through this Forum that we are able to respond to their needs as government. In those few words I would like to welcome you all to this gathering and for the benefit of Matatiele Community.

You are all welcome to Sweet Matat, **“a destination of choice and excellence”**.

I THANK YOU.