

**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA, DURING THE SERVICESETA SUMMIT IN BETHLEHEM**

16 – 17 October 2012

Programme Director

Minister of Higher Education, Honourable Dr Blade Nzimande

Premier of the Free State Province, Honourable Ace Magashule

Executive Mayors and Mayors, Speakers, Traditional leaders,  
Councillors

The Chief Executive Officer of ServiceSeta – Dr S. Moon

Distinguished Guests

Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Economic development and job creation through, among others, small business development, education and training, tourism development, industrial development and agricultural development forms part of key priority issues in the Integrated Development Plan of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality.

These priority issues have been set out after consultations with our communities, our local municipalities and various stakeholders with the realisation of current realities and prevailing conditions in our district of high levels of unemployment, grinding poverty as well as lack of training and skills.

In setting out these priorities, Programme Director, we were quite aware that we were setting ourselves up to a big challenge and

mammoth task of fighting this monster, called poverty. However, we have always been prepared to take the bull by its horns as in the words of Karl Marx, who said; *“If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.”*

This, we believe, is a battle that we cannot win alone as government but we need the support of businesses, training institutions, financial institutions as well as our communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, no single institution can solve the current economic and social problems of our district on its own, hence we are pleased with the partnership with the Office of the Premier and ServiceSeta, as well as other key stakeholders, in the training of our youth in the district.

As the district municipality, we are also indebted to Premier Ace Magashule for his visionary leadership and deep-seated passion of seeing impoverished people of the Free State Province emerging out of the clutches of poverty and rising above the storms of hopelessness and dejection.

For his selflessness, wisdom, hard-work and love for his people, our Premier best fits the descriptions and characteristics of great African politician and thinker Amilcar Lopes da Costa Cabral, who spearheaded the liberation struggle in Guinea Bissau and who also once boldly stated that politicians should work hard for the cause of their own people and not claim easy victory without any hard-work and tangible results.

In quoting him, Cabral said; *“We must practice revolutionary democracy in every aspect of our Party life. Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories...”*

Ladies and gentlemen, the good news is that Thabo Mofutsanyana District has been chosen by the Honourable Premier and Free State Provincial Cabinet as the pilot site for the envisaged training by ServiceSeta.

Thabo Mofutsanyana District is indeed a blessed place. A place, which gave birth to a liberation fighter and stalwart, the late Edwin Thabo Mofutsanyana, after whom the district is named.

Being a member of Communist Party of South Africa and various anti-apartheid movements such as National Anti-Pass Council, Mofutsanyana was a political activist at heart and also played an instrumental role in the underground work of fermenting battles against apartheid regime. He went into exile in Lesotho in 1959. In 1992, he returned to Qwaqwa, where he died in 1995 shortly after our country attained democracy.

Programme Director, we are furthermore pleased with a variety of representation from Co-operatives and SMMEs in different categories, such as farming, construction, manufacturing, personal care and cleaning, mining and mineral enterprise development, hospitality, arts and culture as well as logistic enterprise development.

Today, I can safely say that the journey has started and we have already been put on a right course towards realisation of our priority

of economic development through education and training. There is a great reason for hope. Our people have something to look forward to.

The training offered by ServiceSeta, in collaboration with the Office of the Premier, will go a long way in giving a major boost to work done by Local Economic Development Units in the district and local municipalities of supporting Co-operatives by assisting with their establishment, registration, drawing of business plans, mentoring, identification of growth opportunities and securing of business funding.

Ladies and gentlemen in welcoming today, let me encourage all of you to participate fully in the dialogues and debates that are going to take place in this hall for the betterment of our own situation and improve of our living conditions.

Thank You.