

**WELCOMING NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO  
MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA  
DURING THE CRIME PREVENTION MEETING AT OLD PARLIAMENT  
BUILDING, QWAQWA**

26 MARCH 2013

Executive Mayors and Mayors, Speakers, Members of Mayoral Committee, South African Police Service's Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Sitole or his representative, Municipal Managers, Directors, South African Police Service's high ranking officials and other officials,

We have gathered here today as per the mandate of the Implementation Lekgotla held on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of February this year in Golden Gate which requires of us as the municipalities, police and relevant stakeholders to work towards a common goal of fighting crime to the bitter end and ensuring that community safety is considered a key priority in our plans and budgets.

Effects of crime on our communities are not only a loss of personal belongings, property or income, but also a loss of dignity and, in the most extreme, life. It has so much damaging effects and negative impacts in such a way that it takes time to restore back the dignity of the victims of these heinous acts.

Furthermore, crime results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens, and poses a threat to peaceful resolution of differences and rightful participation of all in the democratic process. It negates the positive gains of our democracy.

Ladies and gentlemen, we should not under-estimate the magnitude of this challenge of crime and the cries from our victimised communities for help. What is required of us is commitment, clarity

of vision and leadership from within all national government institutions, provincial and local government, and participation by civil society.

Let us also ensure that we fulfil the mandate imposed on us by the requirements of our own people for a better life in a safe and secure environment.

Also as part of our mandate we are required to do the following:

- To develop community safety plans and investment strategies, which will be aligned with the police safety plans.
- To align municipal spatial planning with the provincial crime prevention framework and public order policing strategy.
- To develop plans to reclaim public order hotspots and plans to maintain order after the withdrawal of the police.
- To develop strategies for reclaiming and management of open spaces and derelict buildings that serve as a haven for criminals.
- To maintain and manage tourist specific public spaces in order to enhance socio-economic development.
- To also play a pivotal role in the development of comprehensive crime prevention strategy to eradicate high incidents of crime by 50 percent in the Free State Province

Ladies and gentlemen, we will achieve this when all of us commit ourselves to working together in pursuant of a common vision of safe and secure municipalities, district, province and country.

Let us therefore make community safety our priority and our work.

Thank you