

Welcoming Address by the Executive Mayor, MA Masina during the SALGA Mpumalanga Budget Week Workshop, at Hermansdal Conference Centre, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality on 24 November 2011.

Programm Director

Honourable MEC, Mrs Pinky Phosa

Chairperson of SALGA Mpumalanga, Mr Speedy Mashilo

Provincial Executive Committee of SALGA

Chairperson of Municipal Finance Working Group, Cllr Welcome Mhlanga

SALGA Municipal Finance Working Group Committee

Executive Mayors

Speakers

Members of the Mayoral Committee for Finance

Councillors

Our Sponsors, Standard Bank, KPMG, Institute of Municipal Finance Officers.

Cogta, National And Provincial Treasury

Officials from SALGA and other municipalities

Media.

It gives me great pleasure and honour to welcome all delegates of the SALGA Budget Week. Welcome and thank you for coming. You have demonstrated a keen interest in improving our financial management as a province, coming from various municipalities. The late Great Peter Tosh once said '*For eternal peace to prevail resources of the world must be evenly spread to address manmade inequalities* "'

As a leading town in Mpumalanga, I believe that this Budget Week, will definitely benefit all and sundry and see our province improving in our service delivery mandate and gradually resources

will be deployed where they are needed most - we must, however not be overtaken by events. If the report about billions of rands that are siphoned out of the country is anything by.

Of course, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality prides itself with the ten unqualified audit reports from the Auditor General consecutively, but we still need to learn.

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act, all municipalities have started with their budgeting process for the 2012/13 financial year, and this workshop will somewhat serve as a solution to some challenges and decision making before the approval of our budgets.

Quick, easy, free and fun approaches when it comes to municipal finance cant solve our service delivery backlogs.

As a province it is imperative that we analyse our financial management so that we can make proper decisions for the coming financial year.

Principled centered leaders of local government, are men and women who are prepared to work with competence and adhering to our legislations; like the Municipal Finance Management Act and Municipal Systems Act.

There are no quick fixes where you can just spend on fruitless expenditure and magically deliver the needs and aspirations of our communities in our Integrated Development Plans (IDP's).

Our legislative documents are like compasses, they are always pointing the way, only if we know how to read them, we wont get lost, confused, or fooled by our selfish desires.

Programme Director, the law of the farm, says that "I must prepare the ground, put in the seed, cultivate, weed, water and nurture growth. So also in our respective municipalities, we must adhere to our legislative framework of budgeting at all times.

This occasion is important as well because it allows us to articulate all our budgeting challenges during this medium term, pressures and complexities so that SALGA can lobby relevant interventions for our challenges in order for us to fulfill our duties of making our municipalities better places for all our people to live, work and where they can attain their full potential.

Let us remain committed to retaining the programmes that improve the lives of our people by meeting our goals for service delivery. Delivery that offers quality and affordability to our communities.

As I conclude let me also emphasise what minister, Pravin Godan said during his Budget Speech on 23 February, ***"public procurement plays a significant part in the economy and is central to government service delivery. However, citizens and taxpayers do not get full value for money, because this is an area vulnerable to waste and corruption. This compromises the integrity of governance and frustrates the pace of service delivery."***

Program Director, it is in order that I officially announce to the delegates that Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has represented the province very well in the National Greenest Town Competition.

We are the **Second Greenest Municipality** in the country and have brought home a cheque of three million rands, a certificate and a trophy. Thank you for your support.

Once more, welcome to Ikhaya lensimbi.
"Zizweleni nisekhaya".

I thank you.