

Welcome Address by the Mayor of Collins Chabani Local Municipality, Her Worship, Cllr Bila T.J during the event of Annexure Vuwani GCIS Communications Training for Councillors, held on the 31st day of August 2017 at The Rest Hotel.

Acknowledgements:

- **Programme Director;**
- **The Honourable Speaker of Lim345 Local Municipality, Cllr Lebea ME;**
- **The Chief Whip of Lim345 Local Municipality, Cllr Chauke MG;**
- **EXCO present here;**
- **MPAC and Section 79 Councillors present here;**
- **Various stakeholders and participants;**
- **Experts in the communication field;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Members of media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good morning!

I bring you the revolutionary greetings from the collective leadership of LIM345 Local Municipality, soon to be called Collins Chabani Local Municipality. We are pleased as the people of LIM345, to welcome you to this GCIS Communications Training, which is organised here at the Rest Hotel.

This session is necessitated by Section 32 subsection (1) of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, and The National Government Information System (GCIS) framework, amongst others.

Its objectives are:

- To fulfil the constitutional and legal mandate and obligation of deepening democracy;
- Encourage correct public participation in government process and policies;
- Encourage communication between all spheres of government, including amongst others, community based organizations, the Traditional Authorities and other important stakeholders; and most importantly,
- Develop and maintain correct public perception on Government services; and
- Promote economic opportunities, devoid of unnecessary community chaos that may be fuelled by unreasoned comments, thus derailing us from securing potential local, Provincial, National and international investors in our municipal areas.

Programme Director,

This Communications Training is very special and unique in that it takes place in a month when the global community commemorates the 9th International Mandela Day on the 18th of July 2017, which is celebrated under the theme: ***#Action against poverty!***

The National Union declared the 18th of July as the International Mandela Day, to honour the legacy of South Africa's first democratic president, Nelson Mandela, through volunteering and community service. This day must therefore serve to bring people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity.

We must emphasise that Mandela Day is not just on 18th, and the spirit of service to one another must not lapse after July. We must all be reminded that it's not just about doing 67 minutes of good, and that we must dedicate every day to bring about sustainable social change in the lives of our fellow citizens in need.

This training also marks the beginning of a month when South Africa's historic women march took place 61 years ago on the 9th of August 1956, bringing to an end the calculated colonial pass-laws that sought to undermine black people. The more than 20 000 women led by Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Josephs, Francis Baard and many others, assembled in Pretoria to petition against the country's pass laws that required black people, under the Population Registrations Act to carry an internal passport which served to maintain population segregation and biased economic positioning by the then colonial regime.

Programme Director,

Today we meet to trained on channels and strategies of communicating on the ground, because communication is the engine behind government's service delivery programmes, and communication has the potential to make or break an institution.

I am confident that the day communication dies, is the day that government will stop to exist. And indeed that will be a sad day for us all... because government cannot continue with its everyday business – of delivering services to the people – without the work being

communicated to the intended beneficiaries. We all know, that an uninformed community is a very dangerous community.

When **President Jacob Zuma** was addressing the **South Africa's Heads of Mission**, he stressed the fact that effective communication from government is very key in managing public opinions, lies and rumours. He also alluded that communication and marketing should be the key strategic goal. Communication is therefore, the key for survival of government.

As I welcome you **Ladies and Gentlemen**,

We must be able to draw on our experiences of the past 23 years in a democratic government and 17 years since the inception of a democratic local government. We need to use all the platforms accessible to ensure that the communities we serve are always informed of all the developments of our government.

I would like to welcome you all to this induction and wish you successful deliberations for the benefit of our municipality and the province of Limpopo at large.

You are warmly welcome to Lim345 Municipality.

I thank you!!!