

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MEC OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA) MR  
BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEPARTMENTAL  
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION: MODIMOLLE, WATERBERG  
DISTRICT**

**Monday, 03 October 2022**

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**“To be an effective agent of change that delivers quality services to  
citizens of Limpopo”**

Programme Director

Acting Head of Department, Dr Modjadji Malahlela

Executive Management

Senior Management

Distinguished Guests

Colleagues

NEHAWU and PSA

Good Morning

For the theme of my address, I draw from the Mission Statement of the Department, which I assume is the thread that runs through our daily tasks.

The Mission Statement sets us the noble challenge:

**“To be an effective agent of change that delivers quality services to  
citizens of Limpopo through:**

- Promoting developmental local government

- Supporting municipalities and Traditional Leadership Institutions, and
- Optimally deliver integrated and sustainable human settlements.

I spare you the values that underpin our work and leave matters here, with the Mission Statement.

What brings us here for this strategic planning session is to consider and adopt plans for the ensuing financial year, 2023/2024, the financial year that takes us what is billed to be the watershed 2024 national and provincial elections.

The process starting today and concluding tomorrow, is not an act of ticking the box for compliance's sake.

To understand and appreciate the magnitude of this strategic planning exercise, let us reflect on the Mission Statement I alluded to earlier:

**“To be an effective agent of change that delivers quality services to the people of Limpopo through:**

- **Promoting developmental local government.**

How have we performed in setting our municipalities on a development trajectory? To add impetus to the promotion of developmental local government, the national cabinet adopted the District Development Model which has been rolled out to all districts and metros.

As we chart the way forward to the 2023/2024 Financial Year, let us reflect on how far we have gone in realising this mission. What have been the verdicts of oversight bodies such as the Auditor General, Portfolio Committee on COGHSTA and other committees of the Legislature?

What about the citizens of Limpopo to whom we owe quality services, are we living up to their expectations? Are we experiencing lesser and lesser service delivery protests as our municipalities fulfil their constitutional obligations?

- **Supporting Municipalities and Traditional Leadership Institution**

The success of municipalities and the Institution of Traditional Leadership is dependent on focussed support organised by the Department support by the Office of Premier, Treasury and SALGA among others. Our success or lack thereof will be borne by the performance of municipalities and the Institution of Traditional Leadership in general.

A number of municipalities are so distressed they are receiving intensive care treatment by the Department and Provincial Treasury, to ease them out of distress. Mogalakwena remains under administration with no visible end in sight.

The Institution of Traditional Leadership is generally troubled and conflict riddled, with all the three Monarchies, Ba-Pedi, VhaVenda and Balobedu, undergoing leadership crises of their own.

Our biggest challenge, however, is to conclude the constitution and reconstitution of traditional councils to stabilise the Institution of Traditional Leadership.

- **Optimally deliver integrated and sustainable human settlements**

This is our make-or-break programme! When the Department collected award after award, ISHS was at peak performance and picking up allocations of under-performing province.

In recent times, the Department has degenerated to serial under performance and under spending.

Under-performance and under-spending deny the poor people of Limpopo much needed houses. It is unforgivable for money to be constantly lost to the national Department of Human Settlements, when the poor cry for roofs over their heads.

Earlier in the year the Deputy Minister of Military Veterans descended on the province on the slow pace of delivery of housing for military veterans. The Portfolio Committee on COGHSTA also repeatedly raised concern over the slow pace of housing delivery for military veterans.

Minister of Human Settlements Mamoloko Kubayi also visited the province out of concern over our poor service delivery record.

The Strategic Planning Session accords us the opportunity to reflect at length on the aforementioned challenges in our key programmes.

With all the challenges borne in mind we need to emerge from this Strategic Planning Session with planning tools that are tampered by the material conditions obtaining on the ground.

Our Mission must be more than a vacuous statement with no bearing in the realities of our municipalities, traditional leaders and the citizens of Limpopo. Our Mission Statement must find resonance in the plans coming out of this session, but most importantly in our day-to-day tasks.

We must live the Mission.

In conclusion, I thank the Acting Head of Department Dr Malahlela for keeping this massive ship on course up to this day. You have managed to wield Team COGHSTA into a formidable and coherent force that has the potential to take the Department to even greater heights.

Organised labour in NEHAWU and PSA have been reliable allies in the implementation of our mandate.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during this Strategic Planning. I am confident that we have what it takes to restore the Department to its awards-winning ways.

I thank you.