



INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF S.A

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REPORT OF THE 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILGM: HELD AT EMNOTHWENI ARENA, NELSPRUIT, MPUMALANGA

Conference Theme

"The road to high performance in Local Government: Effective & Efficient Management Leadership"

Day one

Program Director: Mr Sam Ngubane: Head of Department, Mpumalanga Local Government

Conference official opening

The 12th Annual ILGM Conference was officially opened with the singing of the National Anthem lead by Ms L Mkhabela. Cllr Lassy Chiwayo, the Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality welcomed all ILGM members and guests present by giving a brief description of the origination of the name "Mbombela". He further took the opportunity of expressing his delight and gratitude that through working with the Deputy President of ILGM (Mr Khayo Mpongose) in a capacity of an administrator at Mbombela Local Municipality have to overcome challenges "rough patch" the institution was confronted with. The Executive Mayor made mention that with the kind of leadership in the institution membership; he was confident that the 12th Annual gathering was going to deliver a successful conference and wished the

conference well. He informed members that Mbombela Municipality was one of the host cities that was poised to deliver one of the successful soccer world cup tournament ever.

In giving the Presidential address Vice President welcomed all members present, International guests, exhibitors, Municipal Managers, Executive Mayors, Councillors and acknowledged the presence of the MEC for Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Local Government, Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini.

During his delivery of the Presidential Address, he rendered a special apology for the ILGM President, Ms Dudu Maseko's absence owing to ill-health and emphasised that the President would have loved to have attended the conference. The ILGM Vice President thanked the MEC and HOD for Mpumalanga Local Government for their support to the institute for Local Government Management.

He further expressed that he was heartened by the remarks made by die Executive Mayor for Mbombela during his opening greeting of guests' address. Moreover, he depicted his working experience and support received from all Municipal Managers, Executive Mayors and DPLG. He proceeded by conveying a special gratitude to the Kwazulu Natal Department of Local Government and Traditional Leaders for the extent at which they continued to support the ILGM during the past years.

During his address, he incited the Mpumalanga Chapter launched on October 3, 2008 in the Nkangala District Municipality in Middelburg, to continue with the process of attracting more Managers to join the Provincial Chapter to assist in improving the lives of ordinary citizens of our country (RSA) and strengthening the institute.

The Vice President announced the establishment of the IMDS Company envisaged at supporting the activities of the ILGM through its proceeds. Services of the IMDS will be made available to assist all the Municipalities in the country.

He further reminded all members that next year (2009), will be an elective conference and advised members to ensure that leadership which are elected depict ethical behavior to promote the best interest of the ILGM. Moreover commended Head Office Personnel for their outstanding preparation done for the successful staging of the 12th iLGM Annual Conference.

The Vice President, Mr Mpongose concluded by declaring the 12th Annual Conference officially opened.

Welcoming conference delegates to Mpumalanga, MEC Mashego-Dlamini commended iLGM for bringing the conference to Mpumalanga Province, she informed the conference about the importance of having institutions such as ILGM to produce leadership of high quality to assists the government machinery in the acceleration of services to the needy people. In conclusion she wished the conference well and hoped that the conference would come up with resolutions that would assist local Government in improving service delivery. ([Attached MEC detailed speech](#))

Educational sessions:

The conference converged into educational sessions, it should be noted that amongst planned commissions, one facilitator did not pitch up at the conference to present his paper. This turn of events affected the proceedings of the three planned educational programs. ([See attached presentations](#))

Gala Dinner and Keynote Address: Minister for Provincial and Local Government: Mr S Shiceka

The Minister indicated he was happy to join the conference in what marked the unwavering commitment of local government sector in making the lives of South African people better. He said that the conference was gathered to debate, share information and map up strategies that

would make the developmental local government better, reliable and responsive service provider.

Leadership of municipalities should intensify the people's contract and display resilience against frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment. He put an emphasis on the development of sustainable resource engine to deliver superior performance relative to the purpose of local government. Municipalities need to employ managerial strategies that emphasize quality and productivity.

The Minister's keynote address dwelled much on a need for greater discipline. Disciplined planning, disciplined people, disciplined governance and disciplined allocation of resources ([attached Minister Shiceka's speech](#))

Excellence awards:

The recipients were as follows :

- a) **Mr Jan Brand** in the category service excellence
- b) **Ms Peta Mashinini** in the category service excellence
- c) **Ms Vicky Shuping** in the category service excellence
- d) **Ms Gabi Gumbi – Masilela** in the category leadership
- e) **Mr DD Naidoo** in the category leadership
- f) **West Rand District Municipality** in the category performance excellence

Day two

Program Director: Ms Peta Qubeka-Mashinini

Program Director opened the second day of the conference by welcoming all members present, she further advised conference about program of the day amendments which the entire conference confirmed.

2009 Elections: State of Readiness (IEC)

Mr Steve Ngwenya presented the state of readiness to the conference. He said that, on the 8 – 9 November 2008, the Electoral Commission of South Africa would open all 19 713 voting stations throughout the country to allow South Africans to register to vote in the 2009 national and provincial elections. This voter registration weekend was an important milestone in the elections planning process.

The coming national and provincial elections would be the fourth national democratic elections since the landmark elections of 1994 and the third that would be managed by the current Electoral Commission, which was established in 1997. Already there was a huge amount of interest in the upcoming elections. Indications are that the campaigning by various contestants in the elections would be robust.

He said that he should from the onset state, that as a Commission, we were concerned about media reports which suggest evidence of political intolerance. The IEC itself has received threats that registration activities would not be allowed to take place in some parts of the

country. We therefore appeal to all parties, groupings and their supporters to abide by the precepts of the Electoral Code of Conduct, even at this stage, before the elections have been formally proclaimed. Amidst all the excitement and robust electioneering by contestants, we must not lose sight of the fact that the founding provisions of the Constitution include:

“Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters’ roll, regular elections and a multi-party system of democratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness.”

Elections should therefore not be considered as mere contests for power. Ultimately, democratic elections contribute to the realization of the aspirations expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution. These include:

“establishment of a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;”

“Laying the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government was based on the will of the people...” and

“Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person”.

We move from the premise that the voter is central to all our activities. We would like to encourage all political parties, their leaders and supporters, to accept this premise.

Since we consider the right to vote to be one of the most important rights in the Bill of Rights, we try to ensure that every eligible South African can cast her or his vote with dignity and with

relative ease. For this reason, we have conducted a delimitation project in order to identify conveniently located voting stations.

For the coming national and provincial elections, at this stage, the number of voting stations would be increased to 19 713 from 14 650 in the 1999 elections. By increasing the number of voting stations, we aim to ensure that voters would travel shorter distances to vote but also that they do not have to stand in unnecessarily long queues. As indicated earlier, the voting stations would also serve as registration points for the general registration campaigns.

He further said that there were currently more than 20 million registered voters on the national voters' roll. Of the registered voters, both nationally and provincially, about 55% are women. Registration figures for youth between the ages of 18 and 25 years stand at just over 2 million; about 10% of all the registered voters. We therefore remain concerned about the low level of participation by the youth. For this reason, we will continue in our efforts to ensure that young people register and exercise their votes on election day. We recently hosted a dialogue with young South Africans and we hope that many of them will use the coming registration weekend to add their names to the voters roll.

As indicated earlier, on 8 and 9 November, we would open all voting stations to give South Africans the opportunity to register if they have not done so yet. This would also be an opportunity for voters who have changed addresses to re-register in the voting district in which

they are now ordinarily resident. Registration stations would be open throughout the country between 08:00 and 17:00. South Africans could now already check their registration status by visiting the website, www.elections.org.za, by sending an SMS with their ID numbers to 32810, or by calling the toll free number, 0800 11 8000.

We are also in the process of conducting a national research survey to analyze registration and voting trends. We are doing this major survey, which builds on a similar survey conducted in 2005, in partnership with the HSRC.

There are a total of 140 registered political parties on our database. Closer to the election we would know how many of those parties, and other parties that might still register, would contest the elections at national and provincial levels. To contest an election, a political party must have:

- completed all the necessary processes to be registered with the Commission,
- submitted a list of candidates, and
- paid an election deposit, of R180 000 for the National Assembly and R40 000 for a Provincial Legislature.

For now the Party Liaison Committees, which are committees through which we consult political parties on the electoral process, are functioning at all levels. At national level, we hold PLC meetings on a monthly basis. The frequency of these meetings would increase as we

come closer to the elections. In addition, the Commission has been meeting with parties separately to share views on a number of matters.

A key message that we have heard is the need for the Commission to continue to fulfill its mandate with impartiality. The Electoral Commission plays a pivotal role in the process of entrenching democracy through the management and administration of regular elections which are free and fair.

It is therefore important that all our systems including individuals responsible for the management of elections are independent, impartial, transparent and accountable in their functioning. The Commission is recruiting and training close to 60 000 election officials for the registration weekend. We would recruit approximately 200 000 election officials for the elections.

We have developed a new set of criteria for the appointment of electoral staff, and presiding and deputy presiding officers, in particular. These criteria include that presiding and deputy presiding officers *must not* in the last five years have held political office or been a candidate in an election or have been politically active for a political party. In addition, they must not in the last five years have held office in an organization that has party political affiliations or aims.

To ensure transparency, we have submitted the names of proposed presiding and deputy presiding officers to local PLCs and have given them time to object in writing to any of the proposed officials. This process has been completed and all the officials that will be on duty on

the coming registration weekend have been endorsed by PLC's. IEC training programme is being rolled out and close to 200 000 officials will be trained before voting day. ([attached IEC speech](#))

Round Table discussions running concurrently:

Four topics were discussed concurrently during round tables:

- Leadership: from clean municipalities to clean Audits
- Leadership: bridging the gap between Political & administration interface
- Preparing & Facilitating the growth of young professionals in Local Government: Where are we ?
- Service delivery in Local Government within the context of Single Public Service

- **Brief Overview on the Round Table Discussion with the topic “Leadership: from clean municipalities to clean Audits “**

Panel list

Mr O Nemugumoni, Director: Dambuwo Forensic Investigations
Cllr M C Mahasela, Executive Mayor, Musina Local Municipality
Mr T Mokhatla, Municipal Manager, West Rand District Municipality

Facilitator

Mr S Khanyile, Director Corporate Services, Lesedi Local Municipality

Scribe

Mr J Brand, NEC Member, ILGM Western Cape and Manager of De Grendel Subcouncil within the City of Cape Town.

In opening the debate Mr Khanyile said that a clean audit is only possible within Municipalities when there is commitment from all concerned, well established administrative and political leadership and with co-operative governance.

Ms Mahasela said that within Musina Municipality they have other than the Municipality itself, established 3 different entities namely, Zelpy – Spirulina Products, a Game Farm and production of Lucerne.

A proper budget process is in place which is preceded by planning, delegated authority and well developed political oversight.

An Audit Committee is in place and regular meetings between the Finance Portfolio Committee, Municipal Manager, other officials and Councillors to monitor budget planning and implementation.

Add hereto it is ensured that staff is capacitated to do the work and regular internal auditing is done. All supporting documentation is properly safeguarded and available for external audit purposes. A clean audit is only possible via good teamwork by all.

Mr Nemugumoni said that all audit rely on supporting documents and whether policies and legislative obligations were applied. He added that although good policies in certain instances were developed there is still room for improvement. The lack of skills of staff adds to audit not being finalised or where staff is not dedicated in doing their work.

Top management must develop a sense of self assessment to ensure that there is compliance with legislation, reliable information is available and that bad debt is kept to absolute minimum.

Mr Mokhatla held the opinion that the reason why his municipality is one of only a few that receive a clean audit report is because they apply and adhere to accepted standards and norms. Good policies were developed and applied. Added to this skilled and good qualified staff are employed to do the work. No political or other influencing is allowed and he as Municipal Manager sets an example of good, transparent governance. Staff are regularly sent for training and capacity building is the order of the day.

Internal audits are regularly undertaken to ensure that due dates are met. Strong and proper political co-operation and leadership and respect for each other's role, functions and responsibilities added to achieving clean audits.

In the ensuing debate the following recommendations were made:

- (a) Exchange programme must be introduced so that stronger/better equipped Municipalities assist the struggling ones so that skilled staff can assist/train/capacitate other staff.
- (b) ILGM to promote strong ethical and professional leadership amongst its members to ensure service delivery of the highest standard.
- (c) iLGM to facilitate and lead the process in ensuring that the National Minister's vision of having clean audits for all municipalities by 2014

Member's session only (This was a closed session)

After the members session, there was a drive to Kruger National Park

Day three

Program Director Mr Abraham Luruli

Fostering an Organizational Culture of High Performance, sound corporate governance and ethics: Mr David Marakala of Productivity SA

[\(Attached Mr Marakala\)](#)

A case study: Mbombela Local Municipality

The Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality presented Mbombela case study following the period whereby the municipality was subjected to Administration by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government ([attached Mbombela case study](#))

Presentations from International Guests were from the following countries:

- [Australia](#)
- [Namibia \(NALAO\)](#)
- [UK \(Solace\)](#)
- Swaziland

Conference 2009 would be held in Mogale City, Gauteng. The host city was given an opportunity to play a video showcasing the municipality.

Ms Mnisi, iLGM Mpumalanga Chairperson in his closing remarks thanked all exhibitors, all members, the delegates and the sponsors that contributed to the success of the conference . She further wished all members and guests safe travel to respective places.

At 15H00 the delegates visited Mbombela stadium.

Day four – Saturday 8th November 2008

Golf that was sponsored by Indalo Fleet Management was held at White River Golf Club.