

**REMARKS BY: HON EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE
SOL PLAATJE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**CLLR MARTHA BARTLETT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**LAUNCH OF THE CERTIFICATE ON
MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

SAVOY HOTEL, KIMBERLEY

Northern Cape Province, Republic of South Africa

MONDAY, 05 MAY 2025

Programme Director

Representatives of Local Government SETA

Representatives of Vumilia Africa (Service Provider)

Executive Managers

All Managers Present

Training Programme Attendees

Programme Director,

I wish to extend the warmest of greetings on behalf of the people of the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality to all visiting Kimberley involved in this training programme.

Appreciably; you have embarked on this mission to share their expertise infused with critical insights. Mr Lungelo Nkosi and the entire team of Vumilia Africa, we welcome your and trust you will enjoy the city's civilities.

Special salutations are also extended to Ms Mishca Van Neel and her entire office at the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) for having made this opportunity possible through the grant allocation.

I am fully aware that there are other training programmes in the works, hence we appreciate and wish to extol with unending thanks LGSETA's involvement in Sol Plaatje Local Municipality's organisational development.

Today, we are launching this training for the Municipal Finance Management Certificate. This day has been much anticipated. The municipality would like to thank the LGSETA for the R880 000 funding.

The grant will be carefully used to prepare the 40 attendees by developing their leadership, financial and management skills which are required for their future careers in local government.

We can assure the LGSETA that we will make you proud of this investment in the most important asset of the organisation, our employees.

Programme Director,

Equally, and in reflecting within the municipality, our gratitude is extended to Corporate Services, especially the Organisational Development Unit for the immeasurable work put into the implementation of this training programme.

This is a glittering account of human development for the programme beneficiary and an astounding imprint of skills development in promoting and improving the understanding around municipal finances. This is indeed the foundation of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management competency training.

The Discretionary Grant application was applied for in November 2023 and has gone through its hiccups, but we are pleased that we persisted until we were awarded the Learnership for the Certificate: Municipal Finance Management.

The best of luck to all the forty (40) participating employees. I urge you to learn and achieve. Please utilise this opportunity as your pathway towards organisational upward mobility and personal growth.

We encourage our employees enrolled in this training to take full advantage of the opportunity presented. Enjoy the experience of learning more about your municipality and local government systems. Read as much as you can.

As a former teacher I implore you to ask the “stupid” questions that others are afraid to ask. May the modules present an invaluable

experience in sharing with your colleagues and participating in the group sessions. It will make the learning experience a fulfilling one-year journey. It may become tough, however, with perseverance and resilience you will overcome the challenging times.

A big thank you to the employees who will step up and mentor and support you.

Ladies and Gentleman,

This training programme should serve as a motivation in putting shoulder to the wheel in the all-out push to achieve internal compliance, and raise our consciousness on how best to protect rate payers and tax payers monies entrusted upon us within the local sphere of government.

Service delivery should have no whim of corruption or financial misconduct. Do not allow or fall prey to unlawful instructions to abuse the municipal resources and be told a “mandate” has been given. Total MFMA adherence should be your mandate. Raise the alarm and share your concerns when unlawfully instructed.

Guard against the embezzlement of financial resources meant for service delivery. Suppress at all cost the urge to exploit them for a good life of conspicuous consumption, living better than the Dlaminis and the Joneses.

Financial misconduct is no foreign concept. The Asset and Forfeiture Unit is no stranger to the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality as we do have a matter currently under investigation.

Let us commit to being upright in our conduct and avoid having our characters entangled in the corruption rumour mill for financial misconduct matters before the court of law.

In the three spheres of government, it is local government that has taken a serious beating in relation to organisational integrity with financial misconduct seemingly at the core of the rot factor.

In building a new Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, we should punt this kind of training as being inextricably linked to bolstering our ability to manage resources better.

Local government is at the coal face of service delivery and enhancing our understanding of spending practices linked to budgeting, will truly serve as a yardstick in changing peoples lives, creating sustainable living environments and ensuring we uphold each constitutional obligation expected of the municipality to uphold.

In Conclusion,

On an encouraging note, this training is unfolding at a time when we have identified measures aimed at improved municipal audit outcomes. The years of disclaimed audit opinions are beyond us and they are a past to frown upon. We are also stepping up efforts in shifting away from the undesirable qualified reports of recent years..

Let this dawn of today's training, stand out as an era of renewed hope for the achievement of a clean-audit and persistent financial planning in

response to the needs of residents, upskilling for infrastructure management and improving our ability to hold contractors accountable.

Notably too, this training is unfolding in a time when we are conducting the Public Participation of the Draft IDP and Budget. This is all about accountability through feedback, consultation in fostering a culture of upholding our service delivery contract with residents and ensuring we are held to account for rates and service charges.

We will be better equipped to respond to criticisms when we overly confident of having trained a cohort of managers who will adhere to prudent financial management, deliver services in response to the mandate given by residents and in providing value for money for collected revenue.

Thank You, Re A Leboga, Enkosi, Baie Dankie