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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



OUR PLEDGE

“to provide quality and accessible services to her community and facilitate sustainable economic and social development through optimal utilization of her potential, and maximizing of opportunities for the creation of a better life in partnership with her community”.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



**HON MAYOR.
CLLR. F.MVANA**



MAYOR'S FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure as Mayor of the Mbashe Local Municipality to present this annual report to the Council and the public at large. Significant progress has been made during the 2007/2008 financial year in the fight against poverty and underdevelopment. The Municipality's concern was to accelerate speed of change and delivery of services to the people.

Most unfortunately Mbashe Municipality has a vast number of people living below poverty line and it is the integrated government's programme that can help reverse the inequalities of the past. Together with other sector departments and communities we remain steadfast in our commitment to address the pressing challenges. This annual report presents an honest expression of the municipality's performance during the year in question, as well as the challenges that confronted us and the interventions we undertook. To ensure that we deepen democracy, the municipality uses the community based approach where meetings are called at village level (± 200 average no. of households), then ward level and at district or unit level.

Ward committees preside over meetings at village level and ward councilors preside at ward level meetings. This is made to ensure collective decision is taken and people are afforded opportunity to freedom. This planning approach assists in deepening democracy as communities ask and deliberate on the municipality's progress and performance. As a collective in a municipality whose majority is the ANC, we are again making a pledge that we will work together as council including opposition parties UDM and PAC to carry out the mandate given to us by the communities. We will do that passionately and willingly in order to change the peoples' lives. The municipality has initiated different programmes to ensure that the following challenges are addressed:

- Poor infrastructural services such as roads
- Poverty
- Poor land use
- Untapped tourism potential

In so doing, we will continue to raise our performance and service delivery to the levels required to meet our entire citizens' needs and expectations

HON MAYOR CLLR. F. MVANA