

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MOLOKO JACK MAEKO, DURING THE CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEWED MINING CHARTER BY DMR MINISTER, GWEDE MANTASHE AT MOGOL CLUB (12 APRIL)**

- **Madam Speaker**
- **Honorable Minister, Gwede Mantashe**
- **Chief Whip**
- **All Councilors**
- **Magoshi a Rena**
- **Chamber of Mines**
- **Officials for the Department from the Minerals and Resources Department**
- **Officials from the Municipality led by the Municipal Manager, Mme Tukakgomo**
- **Representatives of Business and Organized Labour**
- **Representatives from Sector Departments**
- **All other stakeholders**
- **Distinguished guests**

Foremost allow me to formally congratulate Hon Mantashe in his appointment as the Minister of Mineral Resources. I take note and appreciate the initiatives he is leading to create certainty and stabilize the mining environment which has been somewhat turbulent in the recent past. Minister, we believe in your leadership and are confident the matters that have driven government, Chamber of Mines and Organized Labour apart will be amicably resolved. It has been unfortunate to see the Chamber of Mines taking Government to court on matters related to the implementation of the Mining Charter. We thank you for having decided that we should host this session here in our Municipality as we are one of the national strategic growth points.

The Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and its brainchild the Mining Charter have been drawn to enhance inclusive socio-

economic growth and prosperity among South Africans. We have implemented the Charter for over a period of 10 years since 2004. What we need to do is to build on previous successes in order to stimulate growth and further exploration.

We should commit ourselves to the implementation of the Social Labour Plans (SLPs). We equally have to commit to transformation of the mining sector if inclusive growth has to be achieved. There are difficult issues such as ownership, procurement, local economic development and community participation which have to be resolved.

I want to thank all of you, the Chamber of Mines and Business at large and Organized Labour for the valuable inputs you gave in this gathering. For us the people of Lephalale this matter is very close to our hearts. Mining and energy generation constitute the bedrock for the development of this area into a city. In our deliberations today we are still confident that the vision of building a city here is still achievable.

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this gathering.**