WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR- HER WORSHIP- Cllr S.M SINYOSI ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCH OF THE MUNICIPAL WEBSITE HELD ON THE 28th JUNE 2017.

All Members of the Executive Committee and Councillors
Our Ward Committee members
All media houses present
Staff from the State Information Technology Agency (SITA)
Acting Municipal Manager
All Directors Present
Managers and Assistant Managers
Senior staff from the National, Provincial Departments present,
Members of the Website Committee

ALL PROTOCOL TO BE OBSERVED

Good Morning!
Ndi matsheloni!
Thank you!

I wish to welcome you to this special occasion.

As the Council of Makhado Municipality, we welcome and celebrate the re-launch of our municipal website, Facebook and tweeter pages.

We strongly believe that the newly revamped website will be our mirror to the world. It will tell a story of pictures and reliable information to the world out there.

We live in a world wherein information and communication technologies are central to democracy and human and social progress.

Our world today is a digital world and therefore, we have an opportunity as local government to use these information communication technologies in order to improve public access to information and government services.

It is equally important to mention that one of the principal objectives of the IT policy and system in municipal government is that it provides better citizen services and a fundamental tool for enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in public service sector.

Information Communication Technologies has the potential to enhance local democracy, public policy making and improve direct service delivery.

Ladies and gentleman,

As Makhado Municipality, we value public participation in all process of governance. We believe that the delivery of a citizen- centric and transparent government is only possible through the extensive use of technology and by leveraging digital government.

As Makhado Municipality, we are a step ahead in acknowledging the pivotal role that ICT plays in municipal service delivery.

We fully appreciate that our website and digital pages would NOT only impact citizen service delivery, it would also provide the much needed impetus to public participation, information sharing and importantly economic growth given its focus on key elements of municipal information and services, administration, by –laws, policies, and related social services..

Ladies and gentleman- Good governance is fundamental necessity to democratic rule and in today's digital world, e-governance is instrumental to ensuring that we have a people centred system of governance.

Good governance dictates the design and shape of e-tools like our municipal website to be simple, easy to use, attractive, informative, educational and empowering tool to members of the public.

We trust that our website, Facebook and twitter accounts can be an effective and efficient tool for good governance if and only members of the public enjoy using them and they add value to their lives.

We trust that these communication platforms will attract more youth and members of the general public to interact with us, give us feedback on our IDP and SDBIP, but significantly link Makhado with the international community.

We want investors, developers and other local and global users of our website to know that Makhado Municipality is a hub for social and economic development.

Ladies and gentleman,

The emergence of the digital economy requires us as local government to seize the opportunity and enhance our role as public institutions to harness the power of information technology and leading change.

We are required to actively lead the transformation of government to provide efficient, convenient and transparent services to citizens and businesses through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Ladies and gentleman,

ICT can act as a catalyst for organizational transformation and change in our municipality by influencing our Council and administration to:

-Manage the large volumes of data and work flow connectivity between municipality and citizens, departments and agencies and significantly reducing errors;

- Enhancing the interaction and interface of citizens and business with public service providers, cutting delay, bureaucratic red tape, corruption and harassment and increasing speed of response;

- Enhancing transparency and accountability by making information available to citizens,

- simplifying processes and empowering citizens to put pressure on public officials to deliver performance

As we know every technology is value neutral, it depends upon person or institution how to use it. We therefore invite the residents of Makhado Municipality, local business people, development partners, national and international institutions to use out communication platforms.

Ladies and gentleman,

Our website is about services to citizens and business. It is about improving governance processes and outcomes with a view to improving the delivery of public services to citizens.

For us, the website goes far beyond mere computerization, it means to fundamentally change how the municipality operates and this implies reliable, up to date, convenient information tools and services to members of the public.

Through this website, as Makhado Municipality, we are saying we have entered the age of integrating digital governance and communication to improve service delivery.

Ladies and gentleman,

As Makhado Municipality, we are building a hassle free, paper free, corruption free and transparent information space that will enable everyone to benefit from our municipal services.

We have established a Website Committee that will ensure that the website is well maintained in terms of fresh information and latest news feeds, editing and updating of key information on municipal services.

We want members of the public to know the services we provide, who to contact for those services, when and where can they access such services.

We want an unemployed resident in the far flung villages of Makhado Municipality to know about vacant and advertised posts in the municipality.

We want a matric student to know about our bursary scheme.

We want a small, emerging or well established business man and woman to know about the request for quotations and tenders advertised by our municipality.

We want our residents to know about town planning by laws, tariffs and many other relevant information services and updates.

To this far, we appreciate the support from the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) for their professional and on-going support to realise this mammoth task.

We therefore invite each one of you to join us, in this digital journey of improved access to information and communication excellence.

Ladies and gentleman we now present to you, the Makhado Website, Facebook and twitter accounts.

We now invite our colleagues from SITA to unveil and handover the newly revamped website, facebook and tweeter pages.

Thank you,

The End
Office of the Mayor
Makhado Municipality