

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT THE EXTENDED MANAGEMENT MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENT.

1st November 2016

Programme Director;

HOD Daphne Ramokgopa;

Management and staff of the Department;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

All protocol observed.

Good morning!

The year 2016 is now speedily coming to an end. With it comes the end of the financial year 2016/2017 in 5 months' time.

This gives us reason to reflect and do introspection on what we have done and what we still need to achieve, as the Department of Social Development in Limpopo.

As the Department tasked with the welfare of our people, we have our work cut out for us. Our country is currently in the grip of a drought and this is having an effect on everyone. They need us now, more than ever.

Programme Director;

To begin with, let us ask ourselves in all honesty whether we are truly dedicated and punctual in executing our duties and in observing office hours.

We need to revitalise the Department and with that comes a willingness to observe deadlines and to work together as a team.

It also means that we need improve punctuality and time management. Especially with regards to turnaround time for important duties or documents.

HOD;

We are currently on par with the spending of our allocated budget. This means that we will not miss out on opportunities to improve service delivery.

However, in our deliberations today, let us make sure that we focus on strategies to overcome fruitless and wasteful expenditure at all times.

Let us also improve on audit issues and monitor our compliance regularly. I am confident that, if we work together, we may once again get an unqualified audit opinion.

Within many units, there are still instances of colleagues operating in silos. That is – not communicating effectively when it comes to executing our programmes and projects. Too many people are still trying to play their cards close to the chest. This practise is counter-productive for service delivery and a stumbling stone in executing our mandate.

Let us try, by all means, to keep the lines of communication open. Let us be inclusive and transparent in our activities.

If there is a pressing matter that may adversely affect service delivery or even portray the Department negatively in the eyes of the public, let us alert one another of such matter and resolve it together.

We have made a number of decisions and interventions that should start to ease the burden of incomplete infrastructure, which remains a big problem.

The shortage of working tools and assets, such as government vehicles and IT infrastructure, continue to affect staff morale and effective execution of duties. The appointed Task Team on Tools of Trade, will continue to scrutinise the situation closely and make recommendations.

In the meantime, let us encourage all employees to guard departmental assets jealously and to share our scarce resources where necessary. We must all pull together to overcome the existing budget constraints.

Programme Director;

The filling of critical posts in especially the risk management and IT should be prioritised. It goes without saying that a government department cannot function effectively in the absence of the aforementioned units.

Still on the topic of staff issues, we are not doing well in managing the Performance Management System. We need to strengthen our efforts and compliance by all means.

In closure, Programme Director;

We all know the key priority areas and we need to focus our energy on these areas, to ensure service delivery excellence to all vulnerable members of society. In these efforts, let us continue to improve relations with our agencies SASSA and the NDA.

Let us take charge; let us take responsibility and account for our actions. Let us be dedicated 100% during our time in the office.

I now wish you fruitful deliberations here today and for the rest of the year.

Let us build a caring society. Together!

I thank you!

Ndo livhuwa!

Ke a leboga!

Ndzi khensile!

Baie dankie!