OPENING ADDRESS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION FUNDING APPEAL COMMITTEE, POLOKWANE.

7th March 2016

The Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr. Gilbert Kganyago; The Executive Mayor of Polokwane Local Municipality, Cllr. Thembi Nkadimeng; Councillors here present today; NPO forums; Members of the media; Ladies and Gentlemen; All protocol observed. Good afternoon and thank you for honouring this very important coming together, in which we reaffirm government's willingness to display the openness, transparency and dialogue we are committed to.

It is important to firstly note the dynamics of NPO funding. The Department renders social development services to the citizens of Limpopo, in partnership with different social development stakeholders. The NPO funding programme is a relationship with many benefits for the recipients of these services. The Department supports these structures with technical assistance and funding to strengthen their operations. Of course, funding is subject to the budget allocated to the Department. Ensuring that NPO's receive funding in such a way that all types of services are covered in a wide demographic are is a daunting exercise, taking into consideration the number of organisations requesting funding and the number of requests received.

The NPO Funding Appeal committee, that will be introduced today, have the mammoth task to scrutinise all appeals lodged by NPO's with regards to non-funding. They are a group of knowledgeable, experienced individuals that will add great value to the process. Let us allow them to do their work undisturbed so as to form informed and fair decisions going forward. We will be patiently awaiting their responses, in order to take further action that will be to the benefit of the people of Limpopo. In closure Programme Director

I wish the committee well in the task ahead and I trust that they understand the very important responsibility they have been entrusted with. May they be guided by their extensive knowledge, experience and a quest for truth and fairness.

I thank you! Ke a leboga! Nzi khensile! Ndo livhuwa! Baie dankie!