

RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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Office of the Mayor

FESTIVE SEASON GREETINGS BY THE MAYOR OF RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: CLLR. MATLHOMOLA JAFTA

On behalf of our Council, I would like to thank all the residents of Ratlou Local Municipality who registered and voted in our last municipal elections. Participating in the elections is a critically important measure of an effervescent local community and we are proud of your participation on this regard. Remember by electing us, you have bestowed in us a duty and responsibility to lead and govern this municipality and you gave us a mandate to equitably deliver basic services to the residency of our municipality and for that we are grateful.

It is once more that time of the year that many people would like to undertake journeys to visit families, friends and some going on a sightsee and explore the natural beauty of our landscapes. However it is worth noting that with the President's recent pronouncement on the new COVID 19 Variant termed **Omicron**, that is suddenly taking our country into the fourth Wave, as a nation we need to be always vigilant and follow all the dos and don'ts to avert further spread of the life threatening virus.

As the Mayor and young person in our municipality, I would like to urge all our young and old people to use the opportunity presented to us by our government to go and vaccinate. The Premier of our Province is also leading the Vooma Vaccination Programme across our Province, urging all of us more especially young people to go and take their jabs. The only way in which we could be safe and protect our loved ones from the virus this Christmas period is when we have all taken the vaccine and continue to wear our masks, more often sanitize or wash our hands with clean water and soap.

I would once more like to take this opportunity to wish the Administration, employees as well as all the residents of our Municipality well during these festive holidays. Those who will be traveling to various destinations you are urged to drive safe and arrive alive. This is rainy seasons and bad weathers will always persist and therefore I would like to advise and urge all of you who will be on the road to be extra careful. If you will be home please make sure that young children are kept safe from all kind of hazards including swimming on unsafe or dangerous waters.

My last message to you is that, it is about time as a country that we must throw away gender based violence into the dustbin our life time history. Let us heed the call by the State President that we declare war against the second pandemic facing our country by caring and protecting our women and children.

**I wish you all, a happy, safe and prosperous festive season.
Message by Ratlou Local Mayor Cllr. Matlhomola Ronald Jafta**