

# RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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## Office of the Mayor

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE MAYOR OF RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR  
MATLHOMOLA JAFTA DURING COUNCILORS FREE BASIC SERVICES INDUCTION SESSION-HELD ON  
THE 19th JANUARY 2022 AT RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPAL CHAMBER**

THANK YOU PROGRAMME DIRECTOR;

HONOURABLE COUNCILORS;

DISTINGUESHED GUES;

OFFICIALS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL;

Let me start by joining others in passing my comradely greetings and compliments of the New Year to all colleagues present here today. I believe I am still privileged and on time to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year on behalf of the people of Ratlou Local Municipality. Let this be your year of triumphs, realisation of your goals and conquering all the challenges and tribulations employed by your detractors as you succeed throughout 2022.

Meeting here today, colleagues we are still puzzled and wondering how long it will take us to recover from the devastating damages and loss caused by the current and still persistent torrential rainstorms that to this stage has collapsed number of our bridges, damaged roads and other infrastructure like buildings and households. This is happening across the country and as a municipality we are not immune and we should be worried as to how much this will cost us in monetary terms. Just this weekend myself and other leaders could not rest nor sleep as we had to go out and visit our communities that were hit hard by the floods and as such we still have a task ahead us to assess and mitigate this disastrous situation.

I therefor urge all of you colleagues to share a warning message to our communities more especially to children that stays close to rivers, dams, quarries and other low

lying or flood lines area. If you are aware of any place notorious for holding water such as excavations and inundation please warn young children not to go anywhere near such nor to try to cross over such dangerous areas to avert death as a result of drowning.

Just having listening to the President during his January 8 Statement address, I was motivated and highly encouraged when he denounced corruption, maladministration, violence and ill-discipline by politicians and administration in the public sector more especially if you want to remain being a member of the organisation that I and some of you belong to. The President also said the National Development Plan informs policies that will help government reach the goals that are contained in the Freedom Charter and therefore must be supported by all of us.

I welcome the opportunity of being here today amongst the leaders of our municipality with my colleagues in council and senior government officials that are here today to familiarize and guide us in terms of what to expect and do as we interact to seamlessly coordinate and facilitate service delivery to our people.

To my fellow councillors perhaps it would be important for me to remind all of us our official responsibilities in terms of the relevant legislation; Building developmental local government is a journey and requires visionary leadership on the part of councillors to ensure they provide guidance and support to the municipal administration.

The constitution of the republic in a way outlines other goals for municipalities as: • To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner • To promote social and economic development • To provide safe and healthy environments • To encourage public involvement in matters of local government. I know that since we assumed our official duties we have always been working very hard to achieve these goals and the journey continues.

In that way, colleague we will also be addressing the goals that our revolution seek to attain. **Alluta Continua!!!!**

With these few words I would like welcome you all to this session, I hope it will be an interesting, interactive and engaging session where sharing of important information and ideas will address clarity seeking questions as we continue to participate in a positive manner.

I thank you all