

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF POLOKWANE  
MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MAKORO JOHN MPE AT THE DISTRICT WARD  
COMMITTEE SUMMIT**

*Landmark Hotel, Polokwane / Thursday, 20 November 2025*

Programme Director and Speaker of Council, Cllr Kholofelo Lehong,  
Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr Mamedupi  
Teffo,

Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Lesiba Matsemela,

Chairpersons of the various Portfolio Committees,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Fellow Councillors,

Our hardworking Ward Committee Members,

Representatives from government departments, entities and  
partners,

Ladies and gentlemen:

**Thobela, Good morning.**

It is my honour to welcome you to this important District Ward  
Committee Summit, an occasion that brings together the heartbeat of  
our democracy, the voices of our communities and the leadership  
entrusted with advancing the people's developmental aspirations.

Today, we gather to **renew the social contract between the municipality and its people**. Ward committees are the frontline of service delivery, the first responders to community challenges and the eyes and ears of government on the ground. You carry the hopes and frustrations of our people and you are central to building a responsive, caring and capable state.

Colleagues, we meet at a time when our communities demand **faster delivery, clearer communication and deeper accountability**. They want reliable water, stable electricity, safer neighbourhoods, decent roads and inclusive economic opportunities. And they want it yesterday.

This summit is therefore a strategic moment to sharpen our tools, strengthen our coordination and re-align our governance machinery so that every ward committee becomes a **pillar of active citizenship and developmental democracy**.

As Polokwane, together with the Capricorn District and our sister municipalities, we have entered a phase where **execution is non-negotiable**. Our people want to see visible change - transformative, measurable and impactful. And to achieve this, we must be united in purpose, disciplined in action and firm in political will.

Let us use this summit to address the persistent bottlenecks that hinder ward committee functionality, whether they relate to communication gaps, resource constraints, training needs or coordination challenges. Let us reaffirm our commitment to a municipality that listens, responds and delivers with integrity.

Today, I call on all ward committees to rise as **champions of service delivery, guardians of public participation and torchbearers of local democracy**. The work you do in your communities is the work that defines government in the eyes of our people.

Programme Director,

Allow me to express my gratitude to all partners, departments and institutions represented here. Together, we are shaping a governance system that does not leave our communities behind.

I welcome you all to this important gathering and I trust that the deliberations of the day will strengthen not just our structures, but the very foundation of our developmental agenda.

**Ke a leboga. I thank you. Re a le amogela.**