

**Welcome address by the Mayor of Bela Bela, Cllr Freddy Hlungwani**

**Provincial Media Indaba**

**17 July 2012**

Programme Director

MEC for Roads and Transport Pitsi Moloto

MEC for Economic Development, Environment affairs and Tourism  
Pinkie Kekana

Waterberg Executive Mayor, Mme Rosina Mogotlane

Press Ombudsman, Ntate Joe Tlholoe

Heads of Communications in the Province

Media Liaison officers and managers

Leaders and experts in the media fraternity

Editors and practising journalists

Our esteem guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Thobela, Avuxeni, Good Morning

Programme Director

Allow me to stand on behalf of our people, our municipal Council and administration to extend our warm greetings to you all.

I wish to also take this moment to convey our appreciation to you for choosing us to host this crucial media indaba.

Indeed we feel particularly privileged that you chose us to serve as your host municipality in your deliberation of such strategic matters of national importance.

What is pleasing to us is that, the media indaba, comes a few months after we hosted the national Cabinet Lekgotla in January in the very same place we are in today.

Hosting the two (the govt Lekgotla and media Indaba) for us as a municipality, is significant in that, both sessions talk to the strategic direction and development of our nation, its institutions, the roles, responsibilities and obligations we all have to making South Africa, a peaceful, non-sexist, non racial and prosperous nation.

It therefore, place us as Bela Bela, in a unique place as a hosting home for national debates and discussions, further vindicating our view that ours, is indeed an epicentre for strategic planning sessions and a home for workshops for both public and private sector.

And again Programme Director, our strategic location between four provinces of Gauteng, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga puts us in an ideal position to attract corporate and government business to our municipality.

But importantly, we are in the main, a tourism hub and a destination of choice for tourists locally and globally hence we are proud to receive you, as potential tourists, too.

I therefore wish to encourage you to also take time to enjoy our municipality because here in Bela Bela, we have some of the world's best tourism facilities and world class products.

Programme Director

As representatives of our people and that of the State, we are looking forward to participating and sharing knowledge around the evolving roles of communicators and the media in a developmental State like ours.

We do so because we believe that not only will we be gaining insight into the complex relationship between us, as organs and practitioners within the government systems and the media, but we all stand to benefit from strengthening each others' roles in serving our people and their interests.

So, this media indaba is particularly welcomed for its relevance to the existence of the institutions and people we represent.

Programme Director

Lastly, allow me to take this moment to welcome you all, especially our first time visitors, to our beautiful municipality.

I wish to further extend a special welcome to all our invited guests, MEC Pitsi Moloto and MEC Pinkie Kekana (who also happen to be from our town), Mme Mogotlane, Ntate Mathata Tsedu from Media24, Joe Tlholoe, Makhudu Sefara from the Star, Manas Tsungu from SABC, Prof Sheila Mmusi from the University of Limpopo and Mr Chris Vick of Black Media Consultancy.

You are all welcomed

And I thank you.