

**WELCOMING NOTES BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO
MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, Dr. B.E. MZANGWA,
AT THE HANDING OVER OF THE CENSUS 2011 THABO
MOFUTSANYANA RESULTS IN PHUTHADITJHABA.**

7 March 2013

Programme Director

Honourable Executive Mayors and Mayors

Speakers, Traditional Leaders and Councillors

District manager - Statistics South Africa

District directors of Various Government Departments

Distinguished guests

Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In welcoming you at this handover function of the District Census 2011 results let me start by referring to the National Development Plan, which states that “South Africa’s principal challenge is to roll back poverty and inequality. Raising living standards to the minimum level involves a combination of increasing employment, higher incomes through productivity growth, a social wage and

good-quality public services.” And according to this Plan, all of these challenges are interlinked. Improved education, for example, will lead to higher employment and earnings, while more rapid economic growth will broaden opportunities for all and generate the resources required to improve education.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am mentioning this statement from the National Development Plan in an attempt to demonstrate to you how critical will these Census results be in the implementation of our government’s plans and priorities towards improved living standards of our communities.

They are a guiding tool in planning and execution of quality services to our people. They also serve as a yardstick to measure our progress as government in responding to immense challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

These results are furthermore a crucial instrument that would help us in the processes of developing and reviewing of our Integrated Development Plans as well as in the preparing and the rolling out of our municipal budgets.

Programme Director, in a few weeks' time municipalities will kick-start IDP and Budget Road shows to solicit the inputs of communities and relevant stakeholders prior to the tabling of the Budget Votes for the next financial year. As we do so, these Census 2011 results we come in handy and will be very useful in assisting us to avoid unnecessary speculations and assumptions. For example, we shall be knowing exactly what is the population of our district and local municipalities, levels of income, the extent of poverty and literacy levels in our district rather than just assuming. The results will also serve as a point of reference and a reliable resource for the content of our plans.

Census results also give us a benchmark to measure progress we have made in our efforts to reduce unemployment, homelessness, poverty and to increase the levels of skills, and access to education and health care.

We are pleased that the Census 2011 results point a lot of progress we have made as a district since the dawn of democracy in 1994. These results have confirmed, what we have been saying all along, that our people who had endured pain inflicted upon them by centuries of apartheid neglect and injustice have over the

past few years experienced a great deal of improvement in their quality of life.

They further confirm that the policies and programmes that our government, working together with all social partners, has been implementing since 1994 are having a positive impact on the lives of our people.

As the Thabo Mofutsanyana district municipality we believe that the Census 2011 results demonstrate that we are on right track. We have laid a firm foundation on which we are building a better district for all our people.

We are therefore very much pleased today as the District Council of Thabo Mofutsanyana to be presented with the Census 2011 results by the District Office of Statistics South Africa.

We also would like to congratulate the District Manager Mrs. Mpfuleni Khoza and his team for conducting a very successful Census 2011 in the District.

Programme Director let me conclude by quoting the words of one of the greatest thinkers and liberations fighters, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior when he said, "One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change."

You are all welcomed.

Thank You