

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ME. EMMA TLADI ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT BY ME. ZANELE DLUNGWANA (MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FREE STATE) - VIRGINIA ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2006

Programme Director
MEC for Social Development- Me. Zanele Dlungwana
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored and privileged to address you on this important occasion that is meant to address complaints regarding alleged backlogs in dispensing grants.

I first wish to applaud the MEC and her team for having responded promptly to an issue that is closest to the hearts of our community. This gesture by the MEC and her team demonstrates in no uncertain terms that as government we are selflessly committed in ensuring that the needs and demands of our people are attended to.

Research countrywide has shown that social grants play a crucial role in alleviating poverty amongst our previously disadvantaged communities, and I believe it is in this light that the MEC considered it proper to come and listen to the people of ward 5 and 6.

On this note, I wish to appeal to members of the community to consider the message that the MEC and the SASSA (South African Social Security Agency) team are bringing. Today's meeting will go a long way in addressing most of the problems that you have been experiencing as a community.

As Matjhabeng Local Municipality we welcome the initiative by the MEC and her team, and hope that this initiative will spread to other areas of Matjhabeng that are afflicted by problems around social grants.

On this note, I wish to welcome everyone within the borders of Matjhabeng, and hope that this engagement will produce fruitful outcomes.

Thank you
Councillor Emma Tladi
Acting Executive Mayor