

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF  
VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY HER WORSHIP CLLR  
LERULE-RAMAKHANYA MAVHUNGU AT THE GAU TV  
CHURCH LEADERS GALLA DINNER AT 2TEN HOTEL,  
THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY, VHEMBE DISTRICT ON THE  
06<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 AT 18H00**

Programme Directors

Thovhele Vho-Gole Mphaphuli

Mayor of Thulamela Cllr Tshifhango A

All Councillors present

Keynote Speaker Dr Victor Tuwani Phume

Dr Muligwe and Bishop Dagada

Fellow Pastors

Invited guests

Media house

Ladies and Gentleman

Good evening

It gives me great pleasure and privilege to extend a cordial greeting and welcome to you all, especially those that are from outside the borders of the Vhembe District Municipality. I trust that you will not only benefit by just paying a visit to our district but also explore the beauty and landscape of our region.

Vhembe District Municipality located in the northern part of Limpopo Province and it shares borders of Zimbabwe and Botswana as well as Mozambique in the South East of Kruger National Park. The district consists of four local municipalities which are Thulamela, Makhado, Collins Chabane and Musina with an estimate of 1.5million citizens.

Our economic strategic point is a legendary cultural hub, a catalyst for Agriculture, Tourisms and Mining Development. Vhembe District is a four season virgin land composed of mainly of macro-soil and affordable through traditional leadership. The district possesses this opportunity while it is important for a country to strive for food security and maximise exports.

Program Directors, tourism is one of our economic cornerstones as a district. You can visit scared lakes, ancient ruins and historic mountains. Our district is also a gateway to the northern part of Kruger National Park which is the world biggest animal kingdom. One can also take a guide tour along Ribolla Route, visiting the local crafters, sculptors, potters and weavers, scattered around the historic village of Elim.

It is more interesting of people like those coming from outside our district to take a tour of some of the important historical

places of the venda people, including Thathe Vondo Holy Forest, the sacred lake Fundudzi and Dzata Ruins which were once the capital of the Venda people, ruled by great Thohoyandou, whose name means head of the elephant.

We are proud as district of Vhembe to be the custodian of Maphungubwe World Heritage Site, set on the banks of Limpopo River. Maphungubwe was the first South Africa city of gold, a flourishing empire that dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. A district where the sun rises and to mostly in the developmental municipality that focus on sustainable service delivery and socio economic development towards an equal society.

Once more it is indeed my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome you all and enjoy your stay.

I thank you!