



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

Private Bag X8611
Groblersdal
0470
3 West Street
Groblersdal 0470
Tel: (013) 262 7300
Fax: (013) 262 3688

E-Mail: sekinfo@sekhukhune.co.za

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MMC RESPONSIBLE FOR
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLLR. SAMSON
NKOSI ON THE OCCASION OF 22 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF
TAFELKOP FARMERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT HEREFORD,
GROBLES DAL, ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2019, 09:00AM.**

Mosepediši wa Modiro

Executive Chairperson of Tafelkop Farmers Association, Mr Sefoloshe P.J;

All Members of the Executive of Tafelkop Farmers Association;

Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today;

Emerging and Established Farmers invited to this important celebration;

Employees of our Municipalities and Officials of Sector Departments;

Friends from the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning!

Thobela!

Programme Director

Please allow me to hasten and convey warm regards and compliments of the New Season to all of you gathered here this morning on behalf of the executive of my district municipality, particularly His Worship Executive Mayor, who have loved to be with us but could not do so due to other pressing commitments.

Having said that I am deeply honoured to be part of this important occasion that has been organized to mark 22 years celebration of the Tafelkop Farmers Association. This is a rare occasion for me in particular as I have been privileged to the sterling work and meaningful contribution of the TFA before.

Our gathering here this morning comes at a time when our country is faced with massive programme of Renewal, Unity and Jobs as agreed upon. And in the main, we are all speaking in one voice as we embrace the Thuma Mina campaign, which call upon all of us to play our part as 'we grow South Africa together'.

This your government under the leadership of the mighty African National Congress, is on record as we move forward the narrative of land expropriation without compensation, without compromising food security. And through this programme, we hope to get willing farmers on to the farm lands to farm and therefore guarantee us as a nation food security.

It is therefore befitting that during occasions like this, we do not hesitate to give credit to this august Tafelkop Farmers Association, which started its work during the apartheid and repressive times of the old homeland government, which sought to deprive the black majority of equal opportunities to develop and ultimately triumph in their land of birth. Against all odds, Tafelkop Farmers Association emerged and today we are jointly celebrating decades of its existence with joy and happiness. We are indeed proud of this immense achievement.

Programme Director

We have gathered here in Groblersdal, a small farming town which has been carefully singled out to become the home of our district Agriculture Park. The concept of Agri-Park has since undergone all necessary stages and it is only a matter of time before construction of the historical Agri-Park commences.

Soon after the completion of the Agri-Park infrastructure, all eyes will be on you Tafelkop Farmers Association, as the people will want to see what you make use of the park. I therefore, conscientize you to this narrative because your capabilities will be put to test on that occasion. And I am deeply convinced that you will go into that stage and represent us well.

Already you know that our district municipality has carefully chosen mining, agriculture and tourism as its key economic factors. And that therefore means that, you are the ones destined to leverage all opportunities available in this sector. I say this because, having started this association being only 8 people in number under a tree in 1994, seeing it through its infancy and now boasting of hundreds in membership, you are the ones to take Sekhukhune forward.

Programme Director

The history of Tafelkop Farmers Association speaks volumes. It signifies the sweat and the undying zeal and commitment by men and women of Tafelkop to succeed against all odds. And today, we are proud to say indeed you have made it and all of us are here to congratulate you for your immense and memorable achievement.

We are fully in support of all your efforts and we are here to assure you that the district municipality will continue to partner with you in areas where we have comparative advantage. Ours is to comply to the marching orders by our commander in chief, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, who unleashed marching orders.

Programme Director

President Ramaphosa mandated all of us to 'grow South Africa together' and we agree. What we are doing currently is to consolidate the relevant building blocks which will assist us to achieve our set goals. And we commit never to fail our people whose aspirations are bestowed upon all of us gathered here today.

As we consolidate the renewal programme since 2017, we need your good selves to remain strong in your vision of among other things:

- Farming;
- Training of Farmers;
- Information distribution;
- Processing of agricultural products; and
- Organising farmers, thus bringing them together.

This above-mentioned cardinal points speaks to one of the key focus areas of Ramaphosa Administration which urges our communities to take serious the issue of establishing cooperatives as we await the implementation of 'expropriation of land without compensation'. This national programme will require us as communities to be organised sooner so that we will not be left out as it starts.

That is why, we are here with a clarion call to the Tafelkop Farmers Association to work with us and mobilize beyond your current borders so that your best practice can be shared among all the farming loving communities of Sekhukhukhune for a better country.

Please go all out to build this district and let our people go back to till the land. Through this social compact, we want to embrace the freedom Charter as it says the land share be shared among all those who live in it, black and white. With those few words, please all me to welcome you all to this land of Rammupudus, Mathebes, Kabinis, to name but a few.

I Thank You! Thobela!