



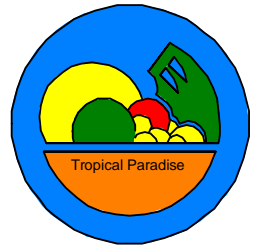
GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY
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MEDIA RELEASE

05 MAY 2017

**STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF THE GREATER TZANEEN
MUNICIPALITY, MARIPE MANGENA ON 05 MAY 2017 AT
HOTEL@TZANEEN, TZANEEN**

Members of the media

The speaker of Council, Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle

The Chief Whip of Council, Councillor Nhemo

Members of the Executive Committee

The Acting Municipal Manager and Directors

Ladies' and gentlemen

It is such a great pleasure to finally meet all of you in one place at the same time. This meeting is long overdue and I am pleased that it has finally happened.

When we took office in August last year, one of the most critical issues that we wanted to do was to meet all critical stakeholders and engage on how we can take our municipality forward.

We have in the past few months done exactly that, we have met with various stakeholders, including among others business, traditional leadership and civic society organisations.

We have also formed various forums and committees which will believe will advocate on various issues that of interest to society.

It is fundamental that we build these relationships, and to ensure that we nurture them because together there is more that we can do. Unity is important to us and to the greater good of society.

The media is a very significant role-player in a developmental state, you are the conduit of information that is undoubtedly required by our people to improve their livelihoods and neighbourhoods.

It is therefore not only in the best interest of the government but to all of us.

The media unbeknown to some plays an agenda-setting role in society, which is a reality that we cannot escape.

The media also shapes our thinking and dictates our attitudes towards those in the echelon of power, it is therefore unfathomable that we can exist and service in a media-free society.

Programme Director

We are aware that media is watchdog that exists to protect the interest of the general public against corruption, malpractice and off course the abuse of power. So to us the media is a necessary irritation, which keeps us in check.

My appeal is that in executing your responsibilities as media practitioners you must ensure that you remain objective, factual and considerate.

The absence of integrity and objectivity from you as journalists will surely sour our relationship which will serve no purpose for the people we ought to serve.

Those in the broadcast media must engage with us within the parameters and regulation of the broadcasting complaints commission.

The print journalists must also ensure that our engagements are done in accordance with the press code.

I am aware of incidences where we found ourselves in conflict with members of the media and I believe that we have the ability to move past through that and build a formidable relationship that is characterised by honest, integrity, transparency, fairness and openness.

We are an open book, we are available to engage with you on any matter concerning the affairs of the municipality that will off course be done under reasonable circumstances.

We would under ideal circumstances be willing to support all local media through advertising and/or advertorials, however financial constraints still exist. We are off course willing to assist where we can with the little we have.

Our people are our priority and we are willing to stretch our resources to the limit to assist them.

I do not work alone, I work with team of seasoned politicians and administrators. I would like you to meet Political Management Team (PMT) which is made of the Mayor, the Chief Whip and the Speaker.

We also the Executive committee members as well as the chair of chairs.

Also amongst ourselves are directors led by the acting municipal manager, Mr Benjamin Mathebula.

Let's work together to build a municipality that will be an envy to others, a municipality which will be a destination of choice for business, leisure and residence.

I thank you