

**Welcome Speech by the Executive Mayor during the Tour by CPA Delegation,
NAMPO, 22 July 2007**

Thank you very much Programme Director
Speaker of the Provincial Free State Legislature, Mr. Mxolisi Dukwana
Delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mayors
Speakers from the Municipalities
Councillors
Officials both from outside the country as well as officials from the Legislature
Officials from the Municipalities
Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I welcome all of you for coming to Lejweleputswa District in the province of the Free State in South Africa to see for yourself what we offer here. The Speaker of the Provincial Legislature has not made a mistake to bring you to this district. It is not only he is from this district but due to the courtesy of the people of this area.

May I start particularly in addressing delegates from outside the country who have come from their countries for the Commonwealth gathering.

In welcoming all of you in Lejweleputswa district I welcome you to the area. As a native of this place I never cease to extol its virtues. It is a lovely district, I hope you partake of its many benefits and delights and enjoy yourself in the time that you are with us.

The district has a population size of approximately 700 000, an area agriculturally strong economically and strongly engaged not only with our region but engaged around the world. This place NAMPO, in Bothaville annually hosts big function called NAMPO Harvest Day where agricultural implements are exhibited which is attended by 60 000 stakeholders. This centre is considered as the second largest agricultural show centre in the world.

Recently, Bothaville and Bultfontein were targeted for establishing ethanol plant as part of an investment plan for the province. For the past decade, our economy relied on gold in particular. Since the downfall of the mining industry, our economy has diversified. Our economy is now focusing on agriculture and mining. Our economy is enjoying its best conditions since our GGP contribution to the Province is 33.15 percent %. Bothaville, the town you visited today, is considered as one of the most important maize centres in South Africa. I invite all those who have interest in agriculture to stay for some days so that we can share with them how do we make success out of it.

We are saying delegates must come back to the district and spend their monies for some days and do not stop-over as they have done today. We are offering a lot of interesting things that you would want to copy and implement in your countries.

Welcome to Lejweleputswa District, I have great pleasure to have CPA delegates here to witness what we are doing in the district. We also say let this visit be not the last visit to our district. I hope you find it rewarding and I hope you go from our district with fond memories, not only of NAMPO but also of the friendliness and the warm welcome of the people of this district.