

OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, CLLR. OLLY MLAMLELI, ON OCASSION OF NCOP'S TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE, HELD AT KAIZER SEBOTHELO STADIUM, BOTSHABELO

21 August 2017

**Premier of the Free State Province, Hon. Ace Magashule,
Minister of Health, Hon. Dr PA Motsoaledi,
Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Hon. Thabang Makwetla
Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon. Thandi Modise
Chairperson of the Select committee on Social Services, Hon. L C Dlamini,
Chairperson of the Education, Health and Social Services Committee, Hon. L Mapena,
Speaker of the Free State Legislature, Hon. Mamiki Qabathe
MPs and MPLs present
SALGA Leadership
MECs present
Fellow councillors
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen**

It gives us great pleasure as the people of Mangaung to be hosting this historic milestone, 20th anniversary of the National Council of Provinces' (NCOP) Taking Parliament to the People.

It is now almost twenty three (23) years since the signing of the Botshabelo Housing Accord, on the 27th of October 1994. And now celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Taking Parliament to the People* here at Botshabelo again, makes this part of our City to be a key player in the just cause for a better life for all.

Though *Taking Parliament to the People* was initiated by the NCOP, in practice is like tailor-made for the local sphere of government. This is because the more the awareness spreads on how parliament works; how ordinary people can make their input in the legislative processes; the better for improving local government.

Taking Parliament to the People combines the two popular forms of democracy together – these involve representative and participatory democracies. Like today, honourable members of the second house of the National Parliament – the NCOP, are here to refresh their mandate such that provincial interests on health issues are taken into account in the national sphere of government.

Whilst on the other hand, local communities are converged here to express opinion on issues of national importance at this consultative forum – affectionately known as *Taking Parliament to the People*.

These progressive engagements between public representatives and ordinary civilians give effect to the dream of Joe Slovo, the former Minister of Housing, who once exclaimed on the occasion of signing of Botshabelo Housing Accord:

“All role players must strive for the establishment of viable, socially and economically integrated communities which are situated in areas allowing convenient access to economic opportunities, health, educational and social amenities and within which South Africa’s people will have access on a progressive basis to: a permanent residential structure with secure tenure, ensuring privacy and providing adequate protection against the elements; potable water and adequate sanitary facilities including waste disposal and domestic electricity supply.”

Thus, our constitutional democratic system provides for potential role players as envisaged by Honourable Joe Slovo to put a hand in the reconstruction and development agenda of our nation. And the NCOP enables us to do so in style – *‘bringing parliament to the people’*.

As I conclude, Honourable Thandi Modise, the NCOP remains the hope of the provinces for fair representation in the governance of our country. And we are delighted that provincial delegates continue to do us proud in ensuring that our interests are taken serious at the national level.

Without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to everyone present – welcome to Mangaung.

I thank you.