



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY CLR. K. CHOENE ON BEHALF OF THE
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MANGAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
HONOURABLE K. F. MORULE, ON THE OCCASION OF
NATIONAL SECURITY MANAGERS FORUM AGM
27 AUGUST 2009**

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Programme Director

Honourable Free State Premier, Mr. E.S Magashule

Security Managers from Provincial and National Departments

Security Managers from National and Provincial Entities

Security Managers from Municipalities

Managers and Members of Law enforcement agencies

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to have been asked to welcome you on behalf of the Executive Mayor of Mangaung Local Municipality, Clr. Playfair Morule, at this Annual General Meeting of the National Security Forum, under the theme “Realizing Security to Better the Country”.

As we approach the end of Women’s Month (2009), celebrated under the theme: ***Together Empowering Women for Development and Gender Equality***, I would like to take this opportunity to salute brave women within the security profession for their courage and great determination.

"Wathint' abafazi, Wathint' imbokodo" (Strike the women -strike the rock).

As we convene here today, we need to be mindful of the fact that the raise and the fall of every nation state is dependent on the effective governance of the security sector. In broader terms, this involves armed forces, police, intelligence, para-military forces and so forth. But for this AGM, the most critical issue is the effectiveness of internal control measures with regard to intra-organizational security. For it is not always easy to discern and expose internal adversaries as opposed to external ones.

Programme Director,

Notwithstanding the significant role played by other security agencies as provided for by the Chapter 11 of the Constitution, the peculiarity of this Forum is premised on the primacy of security profession within the public sector.

In this regard, the Draft Position Paper on Information Security presented a critical and thorny issue that **“many security audits and studies conducted cross the globe concur that the greatest threat to information security comes from within the organization”**.

Furthermore, offices of the Auditor General and Accountant General are dismayed by the fact that effective auditing process is hindered by non-availability of documents. Asset register(s) constitutes one of these documents, reported from one financial year to the other as missing.

Programme Director,

It is my contention that a good steward possesses full knowledge of a property entrusted under his or her care. There is no doubt on our government's endeavor

for good asset management. Hence the promulgation of the following legislations amongst others:

- Public Finance Management Act;
- Municipal Finance Management Act;
- Generally Recognized Accounting Practice – GRAP17 (property, plant and equipment);
- Treasury Regulations, etc.,.

One of the greatest challenges facing the security sector is understanding the times we are living in. This is the generation of knowledge explosion that is highly intelligent to manipulate systems in pursuit of criminal activities. This requires the highest degree of vigilance in our endeavor to safeguard state assets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are the hope of our nation regarding the safe guarding state assets. The significant value of some of these (e.g. infrastructure assets) state assets provide indispensable foundation for economic activity.

Honourable Premier,

Added to this mammoth task of safeguarding of state assets is the protection of people in the employ of government against any critical and pervasive threats. This is not limited to prominent people but the entire personnel within government institutions. Imagine the public sector without you? This could result in the country sinking into chaos and anarchy. In this regard, we are grateful for the pivotal role played NIA, CIS, SAPS, the Hawk, etc., in supporting public sector security managers to better the country through their profession.

Indeed, ensuring a peaceable working environment within the public sector, state owned entities, parliament and legislatures as well as municipalities, is unequivocal mandate to all of us gathered here.

Finally, you have arrived to the *City on the Move – Mangaung – the place of cheetahs*.

Ladies and Gentlemen with these few humble words I welcome you all and wish you success during your deliberations.

I thank you.