

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, WENDY NELSON AT PROVINCIAL  
RISK INDABA HELD ON 10-11 NOVEMBER AT MMABATHO  
CONVENTION CENTER**

**Premier Supra Obakeng Ramoetsi Mahumapelo**

**Members of Executive Council**

**Provincial Auditor General**

**Members of Audit Committees**

**Dikgosi**

**Heads of departments**

**Provincial Accountant Generals**

**Chief Executive Officers of public entities**

**Municipal Managers**

**Chief Financial Officers**

**Members of Mayoral Committee for Finance**

**All speakers**

**Risk Officers**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the Provincial Risk Indaba. It is my privilege to welcome you to the capital city of Bokone Bophirima for this important meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, today our province is hosting Provincial Risk Indaba and this session seeks to bring all the relevant stakeholders together so that we can identify the risks challenges faced by government and develop collective strategies to address them. This is a platform, where policy developers, implementers and oversight should meet and discuss the challenges faced by government and collectively develop strategies to address them. However this does not mean government has not being rendering effective service delivery to the people.

The value of engagements such as this one should not be underestimated. The knowledge and experience that each of you bring will surely assist us all in the work we do in our specific locations and positions in the province.

The theme of the Indaba 2014 which is: ***Together, proactively and systematically managing risks, to ensure effective and speedy service delivery.*** %Saamtrek . ***Saamwerk***+ is key to service delivery and a truism of which we are all aware of.

Why this theme? It is because all managers and officials within our organisations have a responsibility towards ensuring effective service delivery therefore risk management ought to be scrutinised.

This is a task we do not take lightly. Having emerged from an unequal and divided past, we are constantly reminded that the work ahead is significant. We know that redress must remain at the top of our priority list as we seek to give dignity and opportunity to the people of our province.

You may ask yourself why risk management is such an important function not only in the public sector environment but also in the private sector. Risk Management is a systematic process to identify, evaluate and manage risks before they have negative impact on the achievement of set objectives.+ This definition is clear and says to all of us that prevention is better than cure. It compels us to be pro-active rather than re-active in order to deliver quality services to the communities of North West province. If we fail to plan, we will plan to fail .In most cases we find ourselves doing the latter rather than being proactive; hence the Indaba. This is planned with the aim to draw attention and importance of compliance to risk management processes and effective implementation thereof as this will put provincial government in a better position to achieve its set objectives and to speed up service delivery in the North West Province.

Ladies and gentlemen, the state of affairs in the North West Province has prompted the Department of Finance to pledge its support and commitment to clean governance and come up with measures that will assist provincial government towards realization of clean audit, speedy and effective service delivery to the people of the Province. Consistent with this commitment, the Department of Finance thought it best to hold a two-day Provincial Risk Management Indaba with the view of

developing collective strategies that seek to turn around the situation and ensure attainment of service delivery targets.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Indaba seeks to bring all of us together so that we work in a well-coordinated manner and understand our roles towards the same vision and mission. It does not help if we all understand our roles differently as this will affect service delivery because of our different understanding; hence it is important to have a platform like this, where policy developers, implementers and oversight meet and discuss the challenges faced by government and collectively develop strategies to address them.

This does not mean government has not been rendering effective service delivery to the people. Like I indicated we need to be pro-active rather than re-active; we have learnt valuable lessons in the past, although the hard way of the result of being re-active.

Therefore this platform is aimed at improving our planning and development of strategies that will assist us to be able to identify and anticipate the risks that can make us unable to achieve our objectives

and manage them so that we are in a reasonable position to be able to achieve our objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, Provincial Risk Management and Municipal Finance Units within the Department of Finance have a legal responsibility to build risk management capacity, enforce the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) by implementing specific prescripts pertaining to risk management and to monitor and assess the implementation of risk management in the provincial departments, public entities and municipalities.

Some of the challenges noted in the implementation of risk management are that some municipalities and public entities do not have risk management functions as required by the Municipal Finance Management Act and Public Finance Management Act respectively and this borders on legislative non compliance.

Sections 38 to 42 of the PFMA is very clear on risk management.

Risk Management Committees in some provincial departments are not functioning effectively and risk management policies and strategies are

not being regularly reviewed and implemented in some provincial departments and public entities.

Ladies and gentlemen, no entity can operate in a risk free environment and as such we need to constantly scan both the internal and external environments within which we operate with a view to identify, analyse and evaluate the risks factors failing which the organisation will have no chance of survival.

I am confident that our discussions over the next two days will be of great value to all of us.

Let us thoroughly engage on this matter and come up with working solutions that will enable us to achieve our main objective, which is delivering quality services to the people of North West irrespective of gender and race.

Again I welcome you to all to the 2014/15 Provincial Risk Indaba and implore upon all of us to engage and share the best practises that will take this province forward.

I thank You