

**Congratulatory Remarks by MEC for Economic Development,  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Mlungisi Mvoko, during the  
occasion of the 2022 Greenest Municipality Awards Speech held in East  
London, 10 February 2023**

**Greeting to you Programme Director;  
Executive Mayor for Amathole District Municipality;  
MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs;  
Executive Mayors from other municipalities present;  
Heads of Departments present;  
All Municipal Managers present;  
All government officials present;  
Esteemed guests;  
Ladies and gentlemen;**

**Good afternoon.**

Programme Director, let me first convey my absolute delight and honour to be invited here to give a few remarks at this important gathering.

A lot has been said about the background to what brought us together here this afternoon and what these Awards seek to achieve, but mine is just to congratulate all those who have participated and made remarkable progress to what the **Good Green Deeds Campaign** seek to achieve.

When he launched the Campaign here in East London in 2019, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa rallied us all to contribute, and he said: ***“So let us commit today, right here and right now, that we will each***

***do one Good Green Deed a day, for the sake of ourselves, for the sake of others, and for the sake of our country. A clean environment is feasible and is necessary, and, ultimately, will become an important source of national pride”.***

Indeed, ours today is to say “thank you” to those who have made an effort to improve the environment. Their efforts undeniably prove that they embraced the Good Green Deeds Campaign with vigour and enthusiasm.

One of the key areas that government has identified as requiring our intervention is the building of a healthy nation. The attainment of that objective is our collective responsibility, especially with the municipalities being at the coalface of service delivery, where government interacts with its people.

Recently, there has been a growing concern over the state of cleanliness in our country.

The root cause of littering and illegal dumping can be linked to our consumption patterns that support “single-use and discard” mentality. No amount of resources will solve the littering problem if our behaviour towards waste remain unchanged. So many interventions have been initiated in the past and still the problem persist.

The collaboration displayed through the implementation of the Greenest Municipality Awards (GMA) shows the magnitude that can be achieved by government in supporting one another rather than competing against each other.

The competition enjoys much prominence in the Province and its local municipalities and has thus far raised a higher level of education and awareness on proper waste management practices.

This competition is an annual calendar event that must be seen by all of us as a multi stakeholder, cross-sectoral platform that we should use to facilitate participation of municipalities, communities and other stakeholders in

addressing the waste management problems that beset their respective environments.

The developments within the global greening movement require the concept of Greenest Municipality Awards to embody other elements which are outside the waste management category, sustainable energy, water conservation and climate change impacts and opportunities.

The scale and scope of the campaign has to grow to not only focus on physical conditions like waste disposal facilities and social services; but initiate programmes to improve greening initiatives, waste management practices and socio-economic upliftment.

Taking this initiative further will be to open up the space for more collaboration to create business opportunities around waste management, such as improving the waste collection service, be professionalized as a 24hour logistics business, adding value along the chain to establish products through recycling, waste treatment and technology.

Programme Director, today is about the winners, and I am sure we are all excited to see who those are.

But as we celebrate our winners, I want us to find time to carefully analyse the efforts of every participating municipality and reflect both on strengths and areas in which improvements can still be made, so as to guide follow-on interventions going forward. I believe there is a technical report which has been made available in that regard.

Our congratulations go to every winning council - and especially to the residents of these areas for the efforts that they are making to ensure that our Province maintain an environment that is protected for future generations. On behalf of Provincial Government, I wish to applaud you for your efforts; you are indeed our provincial pride.

To the organisers, your role in today's programme and also on the Good Greed Deed Programme hasn't gone unnoticed. We wouldn't be where we are without your guidance and support.

I also wish to invite leaders of the various municipalities, at all levels, to adopt greening as an integral part of their planning. In that way, this programme will grow from strength to strength, and we shall all achieve its objective, that of keeping our communities and South Africa clean.

**Thank you very much Programme Director.**