

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MR J.L (JABU) MAHLANGU, MPL DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE IDC MPUMALANGA REGIONAL OFFICE AT EMNOTWENI ARENA, NELSPRUIT, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Wednesday, 30 September 2009

Programme Director, Mr Vusi Mashabane;

CEO of IDC, Mr Geoffrey Qhena;

MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, Comrade Meshack Malinga;

Executive Mayor of Mbombela Local Municipality, His Worship Councillor Lassy Chiwayo;

The Executive Management Team of IDC;

IDC Mpumalanga Regional Manager, Ms Clara Ramushu;

CEOs of Public Entities present;

Members of the business community;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning!

As the ruling ANC-led government, our commitment is to **work together** with social and business partners **to do more** for our people. It is therefore our intention to work together with various stakeholders during this 5-year term of the current administration, since we value their contribution and acknowledge that we cannot do it all by ourselves. I am therefore humbled and honoured this morning, to have been invited to grace this occasion and share with you our vision, which I believe you will support.

Our main focus over the next five years as government, amongst others, is to **create decent work and sustainable livelihoods; develop rural communities, ensure food security and land reform**. Working together with you as a development agency, we will ensure that these commitments are realised. There is no room for failure or excuses to hide behind, for we are talking about the livelihood of our people especially the poorest of the poor, who have pinned their hopes on us. It is our responsibility as the caring ANC-led government, to ensure that when the sun rises the next morning, that they are better-off than today. We dare not fail them in our quest of continuing to provide **a better life for all**.

Programme Director, as a large number of our people continues to lose jobs due to the crippling recession, it is through such partnerships with the IDC that we must work together to mitigate against the consequences of the global economic meltdown. As the provincial administration, we committed to host an Economic Summit to come up with ways to address the impact of the recession, amongst others. We can report that plans are at an advanced stage to host the summit, which will take place over two days from 15 to 16 October 2009 here at the Emnotweni Arena. Consultations with various stakeholders are currently taking place to come up with a concept documents which will be the basis of discussions during the summit.

We are pleased and encouraged that as a development agency, you continue to play your role hence you have established economic development agencies in the province. Your commitment towards social responsibility is commended. The Nguni Cattle project to be launched today, will further enhance the provincial government's efforts towards poverty eradication especially in the rural areas. We believe that this project will surely benefit the intended beneficiaries in the province, thus going a long way towards fulfilling our promise of **creating sustainable livelihoods** for those who cannot fend for themselves.

Your commitment towards education through the Dinaledi Schools projects is also highly appreciated. We appreciate that you have adopted to assist four schools in our province. This we believe, will go a long way in putting the previously disadvantaged learners at the better position to face the future with the much needed skills of science, maths and technology.

We further believe the opening of your regional office, will bring assistance closer to our people, and you should therefore be commended for the decision. May I at this stage congratulate you Mr Qhena and your team on the opening of your regional office in our province. As a catalyst for balanced and sustainable development, you are now better placed to face the daily challenges being faced by our people. You are a partner of choice.

Working together we can do more to create sustainable livelihoods for our people.

Congratulations once more!

I thank you!