

ADDRESS BY LESEDI EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR LF MALOKA AT THE LLM LED SUMMIT

27 FEBRUARY 2014

Thank you Programme Director

Speaker of Council, Cllr Moremi

MMCs and Councillors

Representatives of Heidelberg Chamber of business

Representatives of Civil Society structures

All government officials

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great to pleasure address you at this important gathering today. Today's gathering is yet another demonstration that our government remains committed towards working together with all our stakeholders in addressing all developmental matters.

Local Economic Development is an important issue not only to us as government but it is equally important to all role players within the economic sphere.

As we are celebrating 20 years of freedom and democracy in our country we all agree in one voice that South Africa has a good story to tell. As Lesedi Local Municipality, we also have a good story to tell on the achievements in the 20 years since we attained freedom.

At the economic front, there is a general consensus that we still have work to do in ensuring that economic freedom is attained and realised by all members of our society. Our country is still faced with the triple challenges poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Addressing these triple challenges is a mammoth task that can never be addressed by government alone. The private sector can also not resolve those challenges alone.

These challenges require all of us gathered here today to continuously engage and create conditions that are conducive for economic growth and opportunities.

Your contributions to our LED strategy will help to ensure that as a municipality we are planning with you and not for you.

As I have just indicated that matters of economic development can never be delegated only to government or the private sector but they require all of us. Together we need to identify all available economic opportunities and prioritise them accordingly.

In creating sustainable employment and more business opportunities we need to position our municipal area as an investment destination of choice for all potential investors. We are blessed with being strategically located among major roads in our country and we need to benefit from that advantage.

This summit takes place as we have just kick-started engagements to review our IDP and Budget for the 2014/15 financial year. Yesterday we had our first stakeholder engagement meeting with our stakeholders in Ratanda and the issue of Local Economic Development was also raised very sharply by SMMEs.

Through our LED Unit we need to continue engaging our SMMEs and ensuring that they are part of these processes.

We can never have a vibrant local economy if the spin-offs are not realised by the local businesses or entrepreneurs. The positive impact that small business has in creating jobs can never be over emphasised.

As a municipality we can never create SMMEs but we can offer support to all those who are taking an initiative to be economically active. Please engage with us and share your frustrations for us to jointly resolve them and ensure that you are able to play a meaningful role in the local economy.

Our SMMEs should be committed in what they do and aspire to grow their businesses they can never be Small and Medium enterprise forever.

As we will be engaging the draft strategy today, our key focus should be at how best do we fight poverty, create employment and close inequality gaps. If we are able to address these challenges we can indeed be proud of our contribution towards making Lesedi a better place to live in and indeed contributing to moving South Africa forward.

We welcome the participation of our partners such as the Gauteng Planning Commission, DTI and other Departments to ensure that our strategy is aligned to all national and provincial plans.

I wish to take this opportunity and urge all of us present here today to put on our thinking caps and contribute meaningfully. Our role remains that of facilitation and ensuring that we create space for business to thrive and create the needed jobs by our people.

Let us all remember that solutions to a vibrant local economy lies not only with government but with all of us as role players.

I thank you.