



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR MALEKE MOKGANYETJI ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF SEKHUKHUNE SERVICE DELIVERY BUSINESS FORUM, HELD AT GROBLERSDAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON FRIDAY, 05TH OF MAY 2023.

Programme director,

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

All councillors present

Leadership of the SSDBF

Friends from the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Thobela

Good morning

Programme director,

This year during a stakeholder gathering on economic development I made a plea for collaborative efforts with entities who desired progress in this district.

This period in time demands of us to see and do things slightly differently. The following statistical factors guide us to understand the reality we must face and learn to manipulate in the business sector.

In the era covered by the Covid-19 pandemic to medium term... the statistics indicators showed that Mining is the biggest contributor in the economy of the Sekhukhune District Municipality and it is forecasted to grow fastest at an average of 5.64% annually. with a total share of 53.0%.

Other contributing sectors are Agriculture at 1.63%, Manufacturing at 3.58%, Utilities at 1.58%, Construction at 2.78%, Trading at 12.02%, Finance at 8.43, Government Services at 15.82, Community Services at 3.14% and Transport is at 3.59%.

The sector that is estimated to grow the slowest is the construction sector with an average annual growth rate of 0.21%.

From these numbers one can only read that more still needs to be done; not only from government side but private as well.

All of us, as local government, the private sector and civil society we are demanding better ways to achieve local economic development, which is a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Many a times we are confronted by the fact that local government face increased distractions due to external factors that cannot be ignored examples are insufficient budgets/funding, general economic down-turn, pandemics, load-shedding etc. you can name them.

Programme director.

The significance of these incidents is that communities and local government face difficult challenges; but they also tend to occur at the same time as massive transformations that may bring greater opportunities on the other hand.

As business sector and in particular the Sekhukhune Service Delivery Business Forum it is your field to identify, analyse and lead the solutions to fill gaps.

This calls for growing responsibility to work together to address the economic health of municipalities and the livelihood of local people, many of whom are under-employed or unemployed and living in poverty.

From a political and municipal governance level I get involved in founding a better strategy for the Integrated Development Plan together with Local Economic Development strategy.

In the process I have realised that achieving economic activities for growth is a serious challenge in itself and ensuring that the benefits of growth spread widely such that development becomes inclusive and impacting on the quality of life of all citizens is even more challenging.

This problem gains its solution once we as leadership learn to involve the communities... and business is one such community.

The question therefore is not only how we can make economic growth a reality in our communities, but how we can make sure that the growth benefits the marginalized and the poor.

Now, I cannot stand here and lecture you as business on how to view your business plans!

But my 50 cent hint is that through consultation, information sharing and research you are halfway to a better plan. So I'd like to commend your efforts to the creation of such a forum and most of all by inviting us to its launch.

It also means that from now on you recommend connecting and mobilizing the local communities, social, financial and natural capital towards the common vision, goals and objectives that everyone aspire to achieve.

Programme director,

This is possible only when the various stakeholders and actors join forces to make a difference in quality of life in towns, villages and other settlements.

I know I sound like politics but take it from me, these things are interconnected. To acknowledge this link I invite you to read through our 2023/2024 IDP and LED strategies so as to position yourself as business. Your rights, roles and responsibilities.

Talking of interconnection I am reminded of a topic I dare not to omit at most deliberations I make: learning and skills development.

For long in this district a backlog in the skills economy has piled our work-abled men and women into idleness and hopelessness beyond youthful years.

It therefore requires a new kind of thinking...

Stakeholders, logistics, not to mention financing mechanism to build a business model based on knowledge and skill.

The TVET College in our proximity [Sekhukhune TVET College] has been upgraded to meet the long sought industrial features- a Special Industrial Facility. Bringing the learning and working in the same space.

As business you can start identifying, analysing and filling gaps within this development. I cannot say how but dream... visualise...get ideas your district and province is waiting.

A few months ago a new Digital TV station “**Motionsense**” was launched here in your district, Sekhukhune.

I cannot say how you must participate but can you visualise some collaboration? Can you market your business through them or can you lodge your creative content with them?

How about the industries we have mentioned above? Can you stand out and convince them that you are a reliable supplier? Can your company learn and gain skills by volunteering? Can you teach others something for free for now and grow your company name?

These questions are not just important but they might bring half the answers you were seeking with your business.

Perhaps you have even more questions or solutions. Bring them in the collaborative box of your like-minded ones.

Knock on doors and do not get tired, we need people like you!

Programme director,

From our part as representatives of society we have devised documents through which we guide plans to see everyone through.

Our LED strategy is one of them. This strategy tackles specific key issues that respond to district local economic factors.

With the experiences of the pandemic fresh in our minds as well as load-shedding... to us at SDM an event like this offers insights and perspectives about what is or is not working on the ground. It shines light about the still availability of people for which we must cuddle and incubate.

This reminds me of the endeavour towards the functioning of Sekhukhune Development Agency which will help attraction of investors to the district, creation of jobs, Skills development intervention and clear plan and strategy of taking the agency forward.

We have also our focus on the SEZ (Special Economic Zone) which will enhance a growth engine that is earmarked to catalyse economic activities in pursuance of government's strategic objectives of industrialization, regional development, and employment creation.

An environment that supports resilient small businesses means more jobs and economic growth in local communities—both urban and rural.

Creating and encouraging an environment that supports small business growth and entrepreneurship is a vital component of economic vitality and advancing a more broad-based recovery.

I find it especially rewarding and valuable to hear from one another attending at this gathering.

Conversations with the leaders of community groups inform me and others of stakeholder and community experiences in real time.

Programme director,

In conclusion, let me quote from one of the most influential person of the 21st century and former British Prime Minister Mr Winston Churchill when he said – and I quote “ Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” End quote.

Rena ka Maspaleng re re: “Tlema teki re nwe meetsi”!

Ke a leboga.