

**OPENING REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR. KEAMOTSENG STANLEY RAMAILA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ENTERPRISE AND SUPPLIER
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HELD AT CHROME CLUB IN STEELPOORT ON
THE 2ND APRIL 2019, 08:00AM**

Mosepedisi wa Modiro

Members of the Mayoral Committee present here this morning;

Speaker of Council and the Chief Whip;

All our Councillors present here today;

The Municipal Manager of our District Municipality, Mme Norah Maseko;

Representatives of Sector Departments supporting us during this programme;

Representatives of Business Community and SMMEs;

Support Staff, the employees of our district municipality;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning!

Thobela!

Programme Director

On behalf of the executive of the Sekhukhune District Municipality, it is an honour for me to address this important breakfast engagement taking place here this morning. I am deeply pleased indeed.

True to the spirit of freedom, as April is freedom month, I am excited that this important occasion, the official launch of Enterprise and Supplier Development programme, is taking place when our people are celebrating their hard earned freedom. This is because during this time on the 27th April 1994, we held our first democratic, non-racial and non-sexist elections, ending centuries of racial discrimination.

The outcome of the 1994 elections, was the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, as the first President of the democratic South Africa. And that was then that Mandela's idea of a long walk to freedom was realized. Indeed, the shackles of white domination against black domination were dismantled and everybody was free from the oppression of one person by another.

The 1994 freedom, will forever represent an era of hope to all South Africans, black and white. And Mandela and his generation, will forever remain our epitome of freedom and democracy, peace and prosperity. So shall the ANC remain the only liberation movement in our life time.

And for us to have gathered here this morning, unleashing developmental programmes that are geared towards fighting the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality, its an honour that our generation bestow to the tears and argony suffered by Mandela and his generation so that we can all be free.

As we celebrate 25th Years of freedom and democracy, we do so mindful of the fact that while Sekhukhune today is a better place than it was in 1994, more still need to

be done. Our gains as we march to the National Democratic Society are commendable.

Programme Director

We have gathered here this morning fully appreciating that our district municipality still recognise mining, agriculture and tourism as our key areas of comparative advantage. And we have since resolved collectively that together we will grow Sekhukhune focusing on them.

We do this because as we seek to achieve the cardinal points that are enlisted in our Vision 2030, the National Development Plan, we appreciate all the material conditions on the ground currently. We know for sure that as we speak our country is under technical recession characterized by low credit ratings and a weaker rand.

And the detrimental effects of this are high costs of food, electricity, fuel and other basic commodities. Therefore, programmes like this which are aimed at troubleshooting the current challenge of high rate of unemployment are very significant. Which therefore means that government, business and the public must work together more closely to help our people out of the miseries of poverty.

The latest unemployment figures shows that more than 6 million young people in our country are without a job. And this automatically means deep rooted poverty and widening inequality gaps between the poor and the haves. And having gathered here this morning, we are saying this can not continue in our watch. We commit ourselves to do something about this challenge and that we will do.

We are mindful of the fact that our district municipality is characterized by a scattered pattern of human settlement, with 764 villages which lack both economic infrastructure, opportunities and services of a reasonable standard. And we have

since committed ourselves to turn-around the situation irrespective of those spatial patterns.

Programme Director

During the presentation of the State of the District Address held last month on the 15th March 2019, we made a commitment to the 1,1 million people of our district municipality that ours is a journey that we must traverse together. We reported there that as much as we have deliverables, we are confronted by harsh economic factors exarbitated by global conditions, which threatens our manifesto commitments.

We have said that our district municipality contains the largest reserves of platinum group metals (PGMs) in the world, with an estimated 22 mines operating and a relative number of them prospecting. And we said that the major mining activity in the district occurs within the Dilokong Corridor, which stretches largely across Tubatse and Fetakgomo.

And on the issue of mining, we have said during SODA 2019 that, we are not pleased with sporadic incidences of mining communities and companies constantly in loggerheads. We have since called for a return to dialogue as the only way to deal with existing areas of disagreements as opposed to violent means of solving problems.

We called upon all our affected Traditional Leaders and community representatives to embrace to revised Mining Charter as the only guidance in dealing with whatever issues that might arise during mining operations. Our role as a district municipality has always and will forever be the mandate to harmonise the situation in order to sustain a conducive environment for investment and development.

That is why we are here to put concrete expression to the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003 as amended. Here we seek to ensure that the economy of the country is structured and transformed to enable a meaningful participation of the majority of its citizens.

Programme Director

We are here to further create capacity within the broader economic landscape at all levels through black ownership, employment equity, skills development, preferential procurement, socio-economic development. And we know that one of the tools available at our disposal is the Enterprise and Supplier Development programme, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Cooperatives to enable their participation in the mainstream economy.

Part of our motivation to become vigilant on this matter is the 2011 Statistics which showed that unemployment rate and average household income in the district stood at 51.6% and R45 977.00 respectively for those who are employed¹. The above figures paint a dire situation non indicative of the amount of wealth the district is endowed with.

Hence we are pleased to report that our agreement with three (3) service providers with experience in this field is yielding desirable results. The district is offering support to the service providers as they facilitate the implementation of the programme. And we call on all the corporates to also buy in into the programme and offer support to the PSPs.

The three appointed service providers to be unveiled here today are the Business Council, SizweNtsalubaGobodo and Affluence 12. May we please request the representatives of the three to please rise so that we can know them.....And I thank you all.

~~~~~The Business council is allocated Makhuduthama, Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Magoale are both allocated to SizweNtsalubaGobodo and Affluence 12 is allocated Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

### **Programme Director**

Our endeavour to create black industrialists using our catalytic projects are today officially receiving a much needed boost to succeed using the expertise of these three companies.

Having completed sites visits across the district, we have since started awareness drives using all public platforms including SODA 2019 and we hope the process of calling upon applications to take part in this programme has started.

And today's session is organised to mobilised buy-in and support to this programme by corporates operating in the district with the aim of empowering local SMEs to participate in the mainstream economy of the district.

We are very delighted to have you all here and we are undoubtedly banking on your support.

**I THANK YOU!**