



Lephalale Municipality

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22 June 2017

Press Statement

Lephalale Municipality SMME Summit

Amid the current negative economic climate that continues to spiral downward, Lephalale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Moloko Jack Maeko, hosted the 1st Radical Socio-Economic Transformation Summit at Mogol Club in Lephalale on 20 June 2017.

The Summit was a platform for various company representatives, agencies and investors to present their strategies give appropriate advice and recommendations to local SMME's on how to establish successful businesses, identify business opportunities and also to empower local SMME's with information that will assist in creating sustainable job opportunities for the people of Lephalale.

The summit was also a foundation for the process of roping in of local SMME's from disadvantaged communities of Lephalale in to the mainstream economy in terms of SMME empowerment and skills development.

The Municipality views the empowerment of SMME's as crucial and very instrumental for bringing change in poverty stricken communities

The Municipality which is one of government's three spheres will use the summit to align with the National Development Plan which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. Speakers representing various organizations and government agencies shared essential information with all invited SMME's. The much appreciated information was to equip local SMME's with knowledge and skill for successful businesses that will contribute towards the development of Lephalale, create job opportunities and alleviate poverty.

The Local Mayor, said the summit is an initiative that will assist in developing local youth to become successful in their SMME's and it is in line with what former struggle icon, Oliver Tambo, fought for tirelessly ***"A country, a movement, a people, that does not value its youth, does not have future."***

According to the Mayor, the Municipality prioritises the future of the local youth "It is because Lephalale local municipality values its youth that we arranged this seminar. It is because Lephalale local municipality knows that the youth of today no longer struggles for political freedom but economic freedom that we arranged this socio-economic transformation seminar."



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“The objective of this summit is to develop local young entrepreneurs who are more entrepreneurial, more adventurous, better educated and economically innovative. We want Lephalale local municipality to develop the youth who will use the advantages of the imperatives of progressive policies such as the National Development Plan (NDP).

The National Youth Development Agency’s Mmathapelo Maepa said she appreciates the initiative by the Municipality as it will unlock a process of engagements with the local youth to empower them “ The NYDA is readily available at all times to provide services such as skills development, registration of corporatives and grant funding”. Eskom’s representative Thomas Chauke equipped delegates with information on tendering processes.

Delegates at the summit formed three commissions which discussed:

- Support towards black owned small businesses in government and private sector.
- Revitalizing Lephalale manufacturing and agricultural sector
- Buy local, the impact of local content on our government identity and private sector.

After the discussions challenges such as lack of information to access business and funding opportunities, inability to meet tender requirement processes and lack of support from government business agencies were identified and possible solutions for constraints hampering the development of local SMME’s were discussed. A follow-up session is scheduled to be held in October to asses and monitor the implementation of the resolutions taken.

The summit was closed with the signing of a declaration by various company representatives from: Lephalale Municipality, Eskom, Nafcoc, Ledjadja Coal, Enel Green Power and Exxaro. The declaration was to mark the commitment by all companies to be part of the envisaged radical economic transformation and to also acknowledge the Preferential Procurement Policy Act by implementing its contents without any compromise.

Queries:

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