

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLR RENIAS KHUMALO TO THE BUSINESS FORUM MEETING 21 JUNE 2011 @ OLD BOHLABELA DISTRICT OFFICES (THULAMAHASHE)

INTRODUCTION

Programme Director

Honourable MEC of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism
(DEDET) Mr Norman Mokoena

Honourable Speaker of Bushbuckridge municipality Council

Honourable MMCs

Officials from the department of Economic Development and Tourism

Officials from Bushbuckridge local municipality

Our business people present here today

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

Sanibonani

Dumelang

Avuxeni

Honourable MEC, we are delighted to have you here today, and as the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge local municipality. I would like to officially welcome you to this business forum meeting that which is championed by your department (DEDET). Honourable MEC, your visit comes at a time when the municipality is chosen by the Mpumalanga Executive Council to host a two (02) day cabinet outreach programme starting tomorrow the 22-23 of June 2011. We are indeed blessed to have these back to back events as it affords our people the opportunity to meet their leaders and share with their leader's information regarding services rendered by government.

Today's engagement, I am informed the Honourable MEC that it is a business forum meeting that which is a platform meant to enable the MEC to engage the business community of Bushbuckridge local municipality on matters of Economic Development, identifying opportunities for development and deliberating on challenges to development and possible solutions.

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I therefore believe Honourable MEC that the business people gathered here today will utilise this platform fruitfully because we need each other hence government's initiatives such as Private Public Partnership (PPPs). Our government is based on the theme "working together we can do more". Therefore it is important and critical that we have this kind of forums amongst the many other forums that government has initiated to creating a "better life for all".

Bushbuckridge local municipality is a presidential nodal point. The municipality boost a high rate of unemployment hence our dependency on treasury grants to run the municipality. I believe that the business people present here today will take this forum very seriously so that they can play a pivotal role as well in job creation, because together we can create more jobs for our people.

Honourable MEC, on the 01st of June 2011 Bushbuckridge local municipality inaugurated the third democratically elected Council since 2000. In my acceptance speech shortly after I was sworn in as the Executive Mayor I said to the Council that much has been done in Bushbuckridge in terms of service delivery. I continued to say but more is still to be done in Bushbuckridge to ensure that the current Council does not fail government programmes.

In this Council that comprises of dedicated men and women, we have taken a resolution to say approximately 10 000 jobs must be created in Bushbuckridge within a short space of time. We are of the view that freedom without economic incentives can never be freedom. We want the total emancipation of our people from the chains of poverty, unemployment and from the chains of diseases such as HIV/AIDS

In my acceptance speech, Honourable MEC, when addressing the Council I quoted our President of the Republic of South Africa President Jacob Zuma. When he delivered his state of the nation address in 2009 he said I quote again"

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- For as long as there are South Africans who die from preventable disease,
- For as long as there are workers who struggle to feed their families and who battle to find work
- For as long as there are communities without clean water, decent shelter or proper sanitation
- For as long as there are rural dwellers unable to make a decent living from the land on which they live.
- For as long as there are women who are subjected to discrimination, exploitation or abuse
- For as long as there are children who do not have the means nor the opportunity to receive a decent education,

We shall not rest, and we dare not falter, in our drive to eradicate poverty. In pursuit of these goals our government has identified 10 priority areas, which form part of our Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2009 to 2014”.

During the Mayoral committee sitting yesterday I said to the committee that our municipal IDP and LED strategy must be consolidated to speak to the needs of our people. I stressed that the current LED strategy must be revisited to ensure that the strategy speaks to all role players in the creation of jobs and sustainable development in Bushbuckridge. To the business people, this is your government come in and be counted as role players in the development of our communities because working together we can create more jobs and free our people from the scourge of poverty.

I thank you