

**Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality,
DJ Mmetle, at the signing of the social accord with komatiland at
the Letaba Showground's on the 29th of January 2013.**

Esteemed guests and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

I always feel privileged to address any kind of audience irrespective of class or social standing; the feeling is the same here today. Addressing this gathering fills my heart with excitement, most importantly because of the future benefits that will be derived from the partnership to be formalised here today. I am delighted because every time a business transaction such as this one is concluded an extra mouth is fed, an extra body is sheltered and an extra job is created.

Programme Director

Our quest as government is to ensure a better life for all; it is to create an atmosphere for business to thrive so that more jobs can be created. We are building bridges and roads that permit business to reach markets for their products. We construct huge electricity networks to give business power to manufacture and process their products. While doing all this we still hold the responsibility of ensuring that our environment is protected and preserved, we bear the responsibility of ensuring that companies include in

their business black Africans as part of Black Economic Empowerment.

Programme Director

I call on all the businesses present here today to adhere to all labour regulations especially when it comes to workers rights and remunerations. Workers are catalysts in any organisation, and because of this role they need to be treated with the utmost respect. Business must not see workers as a means to an end, they must be viewed as an integral part of your business strategy.

Programme Director

Business must ensure that skill development takes place, we need to see labours climbing corporate ladders and becoming managers and directors, because unless we do that, problems of skills shortage will cripple our economy.

Programme Director

The programme of land restitution and distribution exist simply because of the inequalities of the past, it seeks to provide remedy to those who were unfairly dispossessed of their land, however as we do this, these gains are being reversed by unscrupulous elements of our society to take advantage of the precarious financial situation of successful claimants. They buy the

prime land at very low rates from the claimants. We call on Komatiland to ensure that they treat this matter with caution. In your partnership with our communities in possession of large areas of forestry you must ensure that your negotiations are in good faith and are not meant to exploit these poor communities.

Programme Director

We have declared 2013 a year of success for the Greater Tzaneen Municipality both politically and administratively. We want to make a huge change this year; we will speed up infrastructure development while maintaining the current infrastructure, we will build more houses for the poor, we will take young people from poor backgrounds to universities and colleges, we will connect electricity to hundreds of new homes and businesses. All of these in preparations of our Vision 2030 which seeks to ensure that in the year 2030 Tzaneen has transformed into a city. We require investment in both infrastructure and jobs. And i hope and believe that business will come on board.

Programme Director

Before I conclude this address i want to talk a little about our Development Agency, The Greater Tzaneen Economic Development Agency (passionately known as GTEDA). This agency was established by our council to accelerate development in the area, to attract investors and to assist in the

establishment and development of Small and Medium Enterprises. They have since established a local radio station known as GTFM reaching at least 80 000 listeners daily, again they have established a business support centre which provides advice and assistance to small businesses. Through funding from Limpopo Department of Agriculture they have resuscitated the Sapekoe tea plantation now known as the Magoebaskloof tea estate, creating hundreds of jobs for the people of this municipality and beyond. I urge businesses, small and big to engage with this agency, because it must be seen as a coordinator and a driver of economic growth in the area. We need to plan and work together and the agency must be the entry point.

I want to thank the management of Komatiland and its representatives for this wonderful work and I wish that this partnership grows and becomes twice as big.

Thank you; you have been a wonderful audience.