

Address by Her Worship Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Dikeledi Josephine Mmetle, at her introduction to the Tzaneen Chamber of Commerce at Tzaneen Country Lodge, 18 May 2012

Programme Director

President of the Tzaneen Chamber of Commerce in absentia

Esteemed guests and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Afternoon

It is a privilege to address men and women of business, who have dedicated their energy, expertise and time in creating employment for our people. Your businesses contribute to the revenue of the municipality and it is the reason we are able to function. I am delighted by this invitation which I believe signal the beginning of a relationship which will benefit both the municipality and business and in turn benefit hundreds of thousands of our residents.

Government has made great strides to improve the lives of our people, however, there are still more challenges to be addressed. We must halve poverty by 2014 as part of the millennium development goals. And halving poverty requires job creation; it requires men and women to work hard and to do so together.

Programme Director

We are currently working on Vision 2030, which aims to transform GTM into a bustling and growing city that provides a high quality of life for all its people and secure investment opportunities. The key success criterion to this strategic re-positioning is an organisational form that will enable the GTM to deliver on its strategy and mandate. The Vision 2030 Blueprint represents the first step in broadening the long term planning horizon. To achieve this vision we need strong political and administrative leadership. We need public private partnerships. Next week Friday, 25th of May, we are going

launch the R53 million 66kv sub-station build just behind Unicorn Primary School. The completion of this sub-station will ease the load on our electricity network. Businesses will be able to expand. This improved electricity capacity will allow the development of new residential sites which will increase our revenue base and improve our financial position. From the 23rd to the 25th of January this year we convened a strategic planning workshop at the Orion Hotel Magoebaskloof where we took numerous resolutions. Among others we adopted a new vision and a new mission. We also adopted strategy blue prints on the following:

- *Financial viability and financial management*
- *Local Economic Development*
- *Service delivery and infrastructure*
- *Organisational Transformation, good governance and public participation*

Programme Director

Our new vision reads 'to be the most prosperous economy in the country where communities are integrated and have access to sustainable basic services.'

Our mission reads 'to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life through sustainable, integrated service delivery and partnerships'

We have, together with national, provincial and various state owned enterprises implemented projects that will help us realise our vision and mission. The Chief Financial Officer will brief you on the financial position of the municipality, our budget and revenue collection enhancement strategies.

I hope that we will constantly meet and have roundtable discussions about issues that affect our people, generate ideas and help each other realise our 2030 vision.

Together we can do more

I thank you