

# **WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPALITY JOSEPHINE DIKELEDI MMETLE AT THE WELCOME DINNER AT FAIRVIEW LODGE ON THE 21 JANUARY 2016.**

**Programme Director**

**The Honourable EU Ambassador**

**Trade counsellors**

**Representatives of LEDA**

**Representatives of the Citrus Growers Association**

**Distinguished Guest**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to be part of an event of this calibre taking place in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

I would firstly like to commend the UE delegation, stakeholders and sector departments involved in the orchestration of this special visit.

Ladies and Gentlemen Agriculture remains one of the most important contributors to economic boost in the country, it is also crucial to the economy of Tzaneen.

An initiative such as this one in partnership with the Citrus Growers Association is needed to enhance and strengthen the agricultural sector.

Tzaneen is a tourist attraction because of the wealth accompanied by our nature and fresh produce, and I am convinced that this engagement can lead to fruitful trade and investment opportunities.

Tzaneen produces the best agricultural products in the country such as the citrus association. We have what I believe is treasure that has potential to grow the economy.

Our agricultural history is a long one which I will not unleash at this gathering but the exports of our very own agricultural products tells a positive story.

This can only tell us that we make international breakthrough through agriculture, we can create more jobs through agriculture and we have power to strengthen the economy.

Ladies and gentlemen many objectives will be realised through this initiative as the activities unfold, I hope that the objectives of this visit will be realized during the discussions and workshops that will take place. I also believe that Citrus Growers Association visit will be beneficial to all.

Ladies and Gentlemen I hope this will be the first of many visit by the EU delegates and the beginning of good relations between all stakeholders.

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality welcomes and proudly supports this good initiative and it is our hope as the municipality to see this initiative prosper and grow from strength to strength.

Ladies and gentlemen please allow me to use this opportunity to welcome the EU Delegation, and to also recognize the partners and contributors to this initiative, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality values your efforts.

I wish all the best for all the activities that are due to take place over the next two days and I hope that this will be a memorable visit in the Tropical Paradise of Limpopo.

Remember to apply sunscreen and wear your hats as we are currently experiencing a heat wave and make use of our water which is blue drop accredited, which makes it of the best quality.

Without further waste of time to network, I heartily welcome you all to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality and tonight's welcome dinner, it is my wish for all of you to feel at home.

Thank you.