

SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF RANDFONTEIN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AT THE LAUNCHING OF GEP

IF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SEEN AS THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY AND ARE TO SURVIVE IN THIS MILLENNIUM THEY HAVE TO GET NETWORKS THAT ADDRESS ISSUES RELATING TO THEM.

THEY ALSO NEED INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR ECONOMIC IDEALS. SUCH INSTITUTIONS WILL HELP THE YOUTH TO RE-ASSESS THEMSELVES, RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT AND REBUILD THEIR SKILLS, AND ONE OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS IS THE PROJECT THAT WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY.

THIS PROJECT WILL PRESENT THE YOUTH OF THE WEST RAND WITH AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL INSTILL A SENSE OF PRIDE TO THEM. IT WILL ALSO HELP TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY, IN SPITE OF THE HARDSHIPS THEY MAY HAVE FACED ALONG THE WAY. ALSO THE GEP WILL HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO REDEFINE WAYS IN WHICH THEY WILL ENTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

AS A NATION WE NEED PROJECTS LIKE THE GEP SO THAT WE CAN CHANGE THE MINDSET OF YOUNG PEOPLE, UPHOLD HISTORY AND SHATTER STEREOTYPES. LET US NOT FORGET THAT THE PROCESS OF ERADICATING POVERTY, CREATING JOBS AND ADDRESSING ISSUES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT COMMENCED IN 1994 WHEN THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ADOPTED THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AS THE BASIS FOR SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE KEY PRIORITIES OF THE RDP WERE ON MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS, DEVELOPING OUR HUMAN RESOURCES AND BUILDING THE ECONOMY. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE GREATER RANDFONTEIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND HARMONY GOLD WILL PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMIC MACHINERY OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES.

