

**OPENING AND WELCOMING SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
RANDFONTEIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AT THE ECONOMIC INDABA FROM
5 – 7 APRIL 2006**

- THE FACILITATOR – URBAN ECON – DR JUDEX OBERHOLZER
- WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY – MR EVANS TSHOAELI
- REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES (MOGALE, WESTONARIA AND MERAFOONG)
- GAUTENG ENTERPRISE PROPELLER (GEP) – MR BRIAN LANGERNIGGER
- DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS – MR SBUSISO XABA
- GAUTENG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (GEDA) – MR CHARLES MOROLA
- DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR (REGIONAL OFFICE) – MR GERHARD LE ROUX
- CITY OF JOHANNESBURG – MR THOKOZANI THWALA
- HARMONY GOLD MINES – MR JACKIE MATHEBULA
- FIRST NATIONAL BANK (FNB) – MS SHIRLEY BARLOW AND MS JOYCE SCHOOMBI
- DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY – MR NWETI MALULEKE & MR L GOVENDER
- SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SEDA) – MR KGABELE MULE
- KHULA ENTERPRISE – MR GEORGE MOTHOA
- NATIONAL TREASURY - MR KOGAN PILLAY
- AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL – MR DAVID MODISE
- DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – MR LETEBELE SEDITLOANE
- PRIMARY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & TRAINING AUTHORITY – MR TEBOGO MMOTLA
- COUNCILLOR M NAWA – MMC LED
- MUNICIPAL MANAGER – MR MICKEY PADIACHEE
- DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING – MS LIZIWE NTSHINGA-MAKORO
- MEMBERS OF THE SECTION 80 LED COMMITTEE
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT AFFORDS ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TODAY TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDABA, WHICH WILL STRETCH OVER THE NEXT THREE

DAYS. THE INDABA WILL BE FOCUSING ON INNER CITY REJUVENATION, TOURISM, INVESTMENT ATTRACTION, SMME DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, UNDER SECTION 153, REFERS TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL DUTIES OF MUNICIPALITIES. IT STATES AS FOLLOWS:

“A MUNICIPALITY MUST-

(A) STRUCTURE AND MANAGE ITS ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGETING AND PLANNING PROCESSES TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, AND

(B) PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES”

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE, THE FOLLOWING MUST HAPPEN:

- THE MUNICIPALITY MUST HAVE EFFECTIVE AND VIABLE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, AND
- THERE SHOULD BE ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAMMES AMONGST THE THREE SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT.

IT MUST HOWEVER, BE NOTED THAT ALL PLANNING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY DOES, MUST INVOLVE ITS CONSTITUENT COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, AND ALL OTHER SECTORS THAT EXIST WITHIN ITS AREA OF JURISDICTION. IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT WE HAVE CONVENEED THIS LOCAL ECONOMIC INDABA.

THE PURPOSE OF THE INDABA IS TO ESTABLISH CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN SHAPING AND DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY OF RANDFONTEIN. THROUGH THIS CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO GET COMMITMENT AND BUY IN FROM BUSINESS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN BUILDING THE ECONOMY OF OUR TOWN.

IT IS THEREFORE EXPECTED THAT THE INDABA WILL:

- INITIATE A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT AND DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AS A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR RANDFONTEIN.
- IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS OF FOCUS AND INTERVENTION TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY OF THE TOWN.
- OBTAIN COMMITMENT FROM DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS, EITHER THROUGH TAKING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OR INVESTING IN THE ECONOMY.
- TO DEVELOP A RECORD OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY AND IT'S PARTNERS REGARDING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- TO ESTABLISH A STRUCTURE THAT WILL DRIVE THE LED PROGRAMMES.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, AS A TOWN WE HAVE TO LOCATE OURSELVES WITHIN THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT WE LOCATE OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE EARLIER MENTIONED FOCUS AREAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORKS PROGRAMME – ASGISA – ACCELERATED AND SHARED GROWTH INITIATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA – MIG AND THE 20 TOWNSHIPS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THE QUESTION WE SHOULD ANSWER IS HOW ALL THESE PROGRAMMES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SMME DEVELOPMENT, INNER CITY REJUVENATION, TOURISM, AGRICULTURE AND ATTRACTION OF INVESTMENT.

SURELY OUR SUCCESS TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE ABOVE QUESTION, WILL ENABLE US TO POSITION OURSELVES FAVOURABLY FOR THE GLOBAL CITY PLANS AS OUTLINED BY THE PREMIER OF GAUTENG – MR MBHAZIMA SHILOWA.

CONCLUSION:

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS GATHERING WILL COME UP WITH A CLEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION THAT CAN BE USED AS A STEPPINGSTONE TOWARDS BUILDING AN ECONOMICALLY VIABLE TOWN THAT CAN PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE. THE FUTURE OF RANDFONTEIN IS IN OUR HANDS. WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER AND CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

I THANK YOU