

**SPEECH BY MAYOR OF THABAZIMBI, CLLR PATRICIA ALETTA
MOSITO DURING THE YOUTH BIZ AWARD GIVING CEREMONY IN
REGOROGILE MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS CENTRE ON 29 NOVEMBER
2012**

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
FELLOW COUNCILORS PRESENT HERE
SENIOR CED MANAGER FROM ANGLO AMERICAN PLATINUM
SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER FROM LIBSA
OFFICIALS FROM ANGLO PLATINUM AND OUR MUNICIPALITY
YOUNG BUSINESS PEOPLE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Good morning to you all.

The job climate in South Africa is a difficult one, where thousands of young people are competing every day for job opportunities and experience. The latest unemployment statistics contained in the Census 2011 indicate that the expanded unemployment rate rides at 40 percent nationally, and at 21.9 percent in the Limpopo Province.

While we have the lowest expanded unemployment rate in the country, we still need to ensure that our policy makers, labour, business and civil society do something about the youth unemployment crisis. The Thabazimbi Municipality like the Government believes that we have a crucial role to play in providing opportunities for our young citizens, to empower and improve themselves so that they can live lives they value.

Unemployment and underdevelopment in our society remains one of the disconcerting factors in our lives today. It becomes even critical when our youth are victims of these consequences. South Africa is a youthful country, which makes our youth the majority by far. For our country to prosper and become successful, it requires our youth to be active players in the mainstream economy.

However, as we are all aware this is not the situation. Many youths including our graduates remain unemployed despite torturing years of study at institutions of higher learning. Without a shadow of a doubt, investment in our youth would yield huge returns for the country and its people.

It is for this reason that all of us here have to make sure that our youth remain key to achieving this mammoth task. In our many interventions to

mitigate the situation, as a Municipality, Anglo Platinum and Libsa we have come up among others with the Thabazimbi Youth – Biz competition to inculcate the culture of entrepreneurship in our youth. This is to ensure that young people who are unable to get absorbed by the job market would be able to start their own businesses, succeed and create job opportunities for the impoverished communities of the province.

We are proud to realize that many of our youth have taken advantage of this opportunity and have meaningfully benefited from this competition.

Some of those who have participated in this competition are currently running successful businesses and have created much needed employment in their different communities. We must, however, hasten to indicate that there are those who have not been successful despite having received assistance from the department.

To those we want to make an impassioned plea that our stakeholders as well as LIBSA is ready to provide guidance and support to resuscitate their businesses to successful heights.

Today as we congratulate and celebrate with the winners, you must realize that this is the beginning of the real work as opposed to the achievement of the real course.

Over the years, they grew to command huge influence in business environment through vision, hard work, perseverance and zeal among others. I am giving you a challenge here today that nothing stops you from achieving your goals. With the kind of support at your disposal, there is no reason to fail. You all have the potential to be real global players in business and command huge influence in the economy.

Congratulations to the winners, however, those who have not emerged, as winners should not despair. They should go back to the drawing board conduct intensive research about the business they want to venture into and ensure that next year they become part of this celebration.

Many thanks to the organizers of this competition, your dedication and hard work is directly lifting our youth out of the scourge of poverty.

Let us all join in the celebration and continue to support our youth in all their endeavors.

Thank