



THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. MAYOR OF TLM, CLLR TOKKIE SWANEPOEL DURING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM (LEDF)**

DATE: 20 JULY 2022

**VENUE: ANGLO AMERICAN PLATINUM LIMITED, AMANDELBULT RECREATION
CLUB**

TIME: 10:00

Programme Director,
Fellow Councillors,
All Stakeholders present here,
Valued Public Sector and Our officials
All Protocol observed!!!

Good morning!! Goeiemore!! Dumelang!!

Programme Director,

Poverty and unemployment are the main challenges facing South Africa of which our Municipality is no exception; and further worsened by high illiteracy levels and lack of skills. In order to address this, the Municipality has therefore identified Local Economic Development (LED) as one of the top priorities as indicated in the current Integrated Development Plan 2022/2023.

We are gathered here today at this important event and I am pleased to be standing in front of you to establish and launch the Thabazimbi Local Economic Development Forum (LEDF) as an official platform that is aimed at creating an environment that promotes economic growth within the municipal jurisdiction.

As a municipality, our task is to create an enabling environment to ensure that there is effective economic development, investment attraction and retention through key economic developments enablers that include effective stakeholder mobilisation, engagement and management through the vibrant and functional Local Economic Development Forum (LEDF) as enshrined in both the White paper on Local Government (1998) and the Section 152 (1) of the constitution; thus ensuring improvement of the socio-economic conditions in the local space.

It is not always possible for one organisation to have all resources required to implement projects, therefore pooling of resources is required. As part of the municipal LED

institutional arrangement, an LEDF is seen as an engagement platform composing of the local business and/or private sector, chamber of commerce, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), local community, government, academic institutions and any other stakeholders that will play a part to drive the Local Economic agenda of a municipality. It will provide an opportunity to work together to improve the local economy with the aim of enhancing competitiveness and encouraging sustainable growth that is inclusive. It further aims at sharing information and experiences, pool resources and solve problems, including skills development which come up in the course of implementing LED projects.

Program Director, I want all of us present here today to be open going forward about business opportunities that are available, devise intervention measures that will enable and/or assist our local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to participate in the local economy in order to fight the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment facing our nation.

Programme Director, Let me conclude my speech by thanking all stakeholders present here on behalf of the people of Thabazimbi Local Municipality, our Council and Staff. It is my humble plea that we work together in order to provide direction and facilitate partnerships and collaborative funding models to support economic development initiatives within the Municipality.

I thank you!!!!!!