

## **Address for the Libsa Business Information Seminar**

**Event: Business Seminar**

**Date: 28 September 2006**

Program Director,  
Head of Portfolio Committee for Local Economic Development  
Members of Portfolio Committee  
Representatives of Various Business Sectors  
Municipal Administration and All of You

Allow me to thank organizers of this seminar for giving us an opportunity to be with you today. This seminar signifies the road of hope and challenges for our SMME'S. We are confident that you are going to find this seminar very beneficial to all of you. This seminar Program Director further renews the aspirations of our small businesses so as to make them familiar with all the do and don'ts of business development. Our SMME'S should appreciate this opportunity as they will be feeded with business information that is aimed at developing them and their businesses. This indeed is a response to a call that was made by the State President when he said "We need to establish institutions that will create capacity for our emerging business men and women as we seek to accelerate our Socio-Economic development". This Ladies and Gentlemen should be interpreted in many different ways but central to this call is to ensure that, we provide proper business development, mentoring programs, business capacity and opportunities.

Program Director , many of us knows for a fact that our liberation was directed by the principles of the freedom charter that was adopted by the congress of the people at Kliptown. The freedom Charter dictates that the people shall share in the country 's wealth and as such it tell us that , the national wealth of our country , the heritage of South Africans , shall be restored to the people , the mineral wealth beneath our soil , the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as whole ; All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well being of the people All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose , to manufacture and to enter all trades ,crafts and professions.

In responding to the directive of the freedom charter the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality has an existing unit that deals with local economic development and opportunities are created for our SMME 'S for them to have a way of expanding and growing their capital .It is for this reason that we believe this seminar came at a right time when all of us are saying when are we giving them opportunities to grow their businesses. It is our view that, we need partnerships with each other as SMME 'S, business development agencies, Municipality and established business sectors so that we are able to deal with any economic challenges that might confront us. We are confident that one way or the other as municipality, emerging business and established business we all have common interests, Ours is to better the lives of our people and your's is to provide better services to your clients. These in itself tell us that we need these partnerships. We are excited that SARS is also here to tell our emerging business men and women about the tax process and tax compliance. Program Director these needs to be emphasized .All of us should always ensure that we comply with the tax law so that our emerging businesses cannot have any form of hiccups when it comes to opportunities of development. Non-Compliance of tax law remains a serious problem in many of our communities particularly business people. Program Director let us hope that the information that is going to be presented by representative of SARS will be well received by our emerging business people.

It is also with great excitement to learn that, we have representative from ABSA and they will be talking to you about funding opportunities that exist within the banking industry. This Program Director, demonstrates the commitment of the banking industry towards the development of our small entrepreneurs. I am confident that all representatives from various industries that are here today, all of them will speak the language of development which is directly aimed at capacitating our SMME'S. The government departments will inform you about the applicable legislations that are aimed at ensuring that, all your actions and decisions are taken within the parameters of law. It is important from our side as the third sphere of government to always encourage our people to comply with the laws of this country. We are confident that all speakers today will touch on the issues that you need clarity on and hopefully when you disperse from this hall you will be equipped with very important information that will effectively assist you to grow your services.

Program Director, this information seminar is the idea that is intended to inform our emerging business people and this kind of a program should always be maintained and sustained. However the most critical question is what happens after these seminar, do we have any form of programs that seeks to capacitate our emerging business people beyond these seminar, how do we ensure that, they are able to remain in business while working towards growing their businesses. The ideal situation is to ensure that our business support agency regularly visit our people so as to continuously monitor their development and further assist with guidance . It is our wish to see some of you becoming

established business men and women in the near future. It is a well known fact that our government has come up with intervention strategies like Black Economic Empowerment that was intended to ensure that, the previously disadvantaged communities benefit from number of business transactions in our country. The government went further to come up with the broad based empowerment strategy. Therefore as emerging business people you also need to establish consortiums so that you can collectively merge your resources and bid for some big tenders. It is a fallacy to conclude that you are not meant for a big business deals.

We are confident that, the established business communities will assist you in terms of funding. The local economic development unit within our municipal administration will also be able to assist you with some business ideas and we are reliably informed that our municipality will soon finalize its local economic development strategy and this strategy is designed in a way that it will contribute towards both your business and economic development. We believe that in growing business fraternity partnerships, mentoring and commitment are important. We have no doubt that all various representatives from established business sector will give you hope and encourage and beyond sentiments they will assist you in what ever way possible to realize your dreams. Program Director at the very same time we need to indicate that indeed it is going to be a very long and challenging road for our emerging business people nonetheless they need to be patient and remain focused. This road requires commitment and hope because one day you will reap the benefits. It is also proper for us to encourage the business support agency to continue organizing events of this magnitude so that we always remain committed towards serving the people and ensuring that they realize their aspirations and dreams. We are confident that this day will be regarded as the new beginning of hope.

Program Director , we feel proud and honored as the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality to be associated with these seminar. When you decided to have these seminar in our Civic center you were confident that we will truly support and agree with the purpose of these seminar. It is against these background that , we feel that there is a need to strengthen our relationship with all stakeholders involved in these seminar. My standing here signifies a warm welcome to all of you and hoping that you will all find these day beneficial as I have already alluded. These is your home and feel free to be part of the event that will change your dreams and aspirations into reality. We wholeheartedly share your aspirations and dreams .

I THANK YOU.