

LIBSA Business Day – 29 September 2005 Welcome by the Mayor of Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality

Ladies and Gentlemen we gather today for this LIBSA business day at the sunset of the term of the very first municipal councils. During this time a lot of lessons have been learnt that have helped in shaping the face of local government. Of significance is the fact that municipalities are no longer referred to as the third tier of government but rather the local sphere of government. This shift of emphasis has placed more emphasis on municipalities as the local phase of government. And we know that one of the things high on the list of needs of our communities is the need for employment which is expected of government to provide. As the local phase of government the municipality is therefore required to provide that. It is therefore evident that all municipalities are faced with a very high demand which on their own they cannot be able to meet.

The Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality is also faced with the same challenge. As a municipality there are only so many jobs that we can create from within our own structures and the same applies to the whole of the government service. The requirement for us to provide employment is therefore not just an issue confined to jobs within the government institutions. As government we should therefore be looking at other areas outside of government for job creation. The input of the business sector is therefore of utmost importance and as the municipality we see them as partners in helping the municipality discharge its mandate. The municipality has therefore committed itself to doing all in its powers to ensure that an enabling environment exists for local business people to grow and in the process create employment for our people. We also welcome and appreciate the efforts of all institutions whose aim is to also create that environment and we seek to forge close links with them as we are all working towards the same goal.

Those of us here today who know the processes of a municipality will know that as a municipality our actions are determined by the IDP processes since there is nothing that the municipality can do if it is not in its IDP document. The municipality has just started on its IDP review process for the 2006/07 financial year. I would therefore like to urge all business people to ensure that they acquaint themselves with the current IDP program to ensure that they can be able to input into it. Let us remember that the municipality is not just councillors or officials but includes even yourselves as members of the community. Therefore for our IDP document to truly be a document of the municipality you must have had an input into it. Please get involved.

All of us I am sure appreciate the immense possibilities that exist within the Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality and for us to be able to exploit them fully we need to work together. I am therefore very grateful to LIBSA for having organised this event as I am sure that it will go a long way in mobilising out business people and our community at large to the opportunities that exist. Let us realise that an opportunity is just an opportunity and will not make any difference until it is exploited. I hope today's proceedings will help us in coming up with ways of exploiting these opportunities. This is the very thing that leaves a lasting impression on our people. As the municipality and government as a whole we are faced with a huge challenge but I believe that together we can meet it.

With these words I would like to say that you are welcome.