



1 February 2018

Cllr Memory Booysen, Executive Mayor of Eden District Municipality

SPEECH

Honourable Premier of the Western Cape

Members of the Provincial Cabinet present here today

All seven Executive Mayors of the Eden

Councillors

Executive Managers

SETA Coordinators

Rectors from Tertiary Institutions

Members from the business fraternity & tourism industry

Distinguish Guests

The Summit Chair

The media

It is indeed an honour to address you this morning as the Executive Mayor of the Eden District Municipality. I was tasked to talk on the role of Eden District Municipality concerning *skills development within the district in relation to the Investment Conference planned by Eden District Municipality, planned for 06 & 07 March 2017. Thank you very much for allowing me to share my modest thoughts during this important Eden Skill Summit.*

During my foreword in the new Integrated Development Plan 2017/18 – 2021/22, Council agreed and committed to move from being a having the mentality of a "each for his own" approach, to a holistic and all inclusive approach for planning and development of the district. I therefore announced amongst others the following strategic policy shifts:

- ✚ Educate, train, develop and create more opportunities for our unemployed youth*
- ✚ A citizen's voice approach to collaborative partnering*
- ✚ Good governance and beyond: A developmental agenda*
- ✚ From district to regional planning and development*
- ✚ Introducing innovative leadership capabilities*
- ✚ Exploring sustainable funding models*
- ✚ Catalytic project and joint planning initiatives*
- ✚ Enhancing the Urban-rural interconnectivity*
- ✚ Excel in our Agri-processing initiative, capitalise on tourism and fast track the LED implementation imperative*
- ✚ Effective property investment promotion and marketing and safeguarding our financial sustainability*
- ✚ Enhancement of our IGR, Joint Planning Initiatives through effective and collaborative partnering*

✚ *Response to climate change, environmental sustainability, water security provisioning and growing the rural economy*

The shift to a holistic planning approach on collaborative citizen partnership, joint planning finds expression in Eden DM on going support for the South Cape Economic Partnership (SCEP). SCEP contributes towards an enabling and conducive environment for collaboration between government, business and other stakeholders within the region.

Investment Readiness Workshops

We aim to make the district ready for investors to invest. Various workshops was arranged to address the challenges within the district. Investment, Tourism, Skills Development.

Overall objective Of Skills Summit

This Skills Summit is a strategic encounter at which all of us are charged with the responsibility of driving the reconstruction, growth and development of Eden that can consolidate our work and assess the effectiveness of the strategies we have adopted in this mammoth task.

Most importantly, this Skills Summit brings together major SETA'S, tertiary institutions, training service providers, business chambers, local tourism industries at cetra.

It is envisaged that this Summit will result in a summary of resolutions, which will constitute Eden `delivery agreement` with the sector.

More than anything the summary of summit resolutions will underscore the weight given to co-operative efforts as we continue to pursue the objectives of

developing the requisite pool of skills to meet the demands of our economy and more specifically Eden.

SCEP partners have agreed to focus on the following priority sectors:

(a) oil, gas and energy;

(b) tourism;

(c) agri-processing; and

(d) creative industries.

In addition to this the group intends to collaborate on economic infrastructure; entrepreneurship, business development and integration; and investment promotion. Eden Council endorsed these.

It was against this background a call was made for an investment conference to be held on 07 & 08 March 2018.

On 7 June 2017, a fire raged through Knysna and the devastation will be with us for years to come. The consequences of the fire necessitate us to re-prioritise in certain areas, but should not deviate us completely from pursuing our overall economic development growth path.

Furthermore, we need to look at the following realities:

- ***We are living in a changing World which has a direct impact on the district***
- ***Skills needs are changing as the advances***

- ***Key Challenges per town, private and public sectors (Current Realities)***
- ***The same for Opportunities***

My view of the changing world is as follows:

Organisations (government & businesses) are challenged on a regular basis to adapt to the ever changing world that we are living in. This presents challenges in ensuring that we have the right number of people with the right types of skills available at the right time.

A host of global trends and drivers of change will shape the employment and skills needs of all employers. In this fast changing environment, versatility is key. An organisation's success will, in large part, depend on making the best use of skills available to them, including ICT proficiency, communications, business acumen, teamwork, foreign language proficiency and cultural awareness

Skills needs are changing

Core transversal skills are becoming ever more important to an individual's successful and sustainable employment. They also enable people to move between jobs and careers, to participate in lifelong education and training and also to improve the flexibility and competitiveness of the labour market. Given the changing demand for skills, increasing people's lifelong learning activity, especially those in the workforce, is a vital element of Ireland's future skills development and can have a positive impact on productivity and innovation at firm level and nationally.

Key Challenges per town, public and private sectors

Identifying the future skills needs for SA is clearly complex. Even employers themselves experience uncertainty around their future skills requirements. The provision of labour market intelligence will deliver maximum impact if it is reviewed and mediated through structured dialogue with key stakeholders.

The challenge is while we plan for future skills needs, we have to deliver on the current needs of industry

Opportunities per town, public and private sectors

In order to achieve more, municipalities, the Business Chambers, services providers (Private and Public) need to come together and develop a skills development strategy for the District that can be copied by other districts.

I am a strong believer in working together. To this end the Eden District Municipality have planned the following events:

KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- *What are the key factors contributing to:
Unemployment;
Inequality;
Illiteracy;
Moral fibre (social fibre in terms of work ethics)*
- *What training initiatives are your company/organization/institution currently busy with*

- *Prioritizing of training needs*

Identify the most critical and scarce skills within the District/your municipal area;

How can it be addressed?

Forecasting in terms of training initiatives (next five years)

- *How do think we can improve / strengthen integration of skills development initiatives in the District for better impact*

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must improve learning provision for young people, it must be equal for all, we need to provide broader, more flexible options matched by enhanced support and guidance. Skills development is a critical component of our overall Human Resource Development Strategy (HRDS).

An educated and skilled human resource is a key leverage for accelerating economic growth and human development.

By enhancing the skills, the knowledge and the abilities of individuals, Human Resource Development serves to improve the productivity of people

Accept my congratulations in anticipation of your support and your commitment to achieve a skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path.

We expect your support to be translated into firm commitments from each stakeholder in the post-summit engagements.

Honorable guests,

I am confident that we as stakeholders have the will, the strength and the wherewithal to achieve our set objectives in the area of Human Resource Development in order to meet Eden's developmental imperatives.

Consequently, I am equally confident that this Summit will meet its intended objectives and serve as a platform to consolidate the social compact that we envisage.

I thank you.

Thank you!

Baie dankie!

Enkosi!