

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIROMENT AND TOURISM, MR MN MOKOENA, MPL, DURING THE DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION AT MTPA

7 FEBRUARY 2012

- **The Programme Director Mr Jabulani Mtsweni**
- **The Head of Department, Dr Vusanani Dlamini;**
- **CEO of the MGB, Mr Bheki Mlambo;**
- **Acting CEO of MTPA, Dr Nthabiseng Motete**
- **Acting CEO of MEGA, Mr Elvis Rabohale;**
- **We recognised the presence of Strategic partners:**
 - **National Empowerment Fund**
 - **Seda**
 - **NYDA**
 - **IDC**
- **Senior Management and officials from the Department and Public Entities;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen;**

Once More, Good Afternoon

I wish to restate as indicated in my opening remarks that our intention of meeting in the manner we have done with our

agencies over two days in the main was to refocus and re-align our priorities to the new economic trajectory defined by the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development path and more importantly to assess our financial and non-financial institutional capacity to deliver on the targets we have set ourselves.

The two (2) days output we had set out included:

- Ratification of the POA for the MEGDP
- Aligning our priorities in 2012/13 APP with the POA for MEDGP
- Assessing 2012/13 baseline allocation
- Exploring areas of co-operation with our strategic partners including DFI's and judging from the quality of inputs I am beginning to get a sense of hope that we are slowly getting our ducks in a row.

Over and above the planning and budget imperatives, I've got a responsibility to ensure that our area of work as a Government Department talks to the policy directives of the ruling party.

We must be careful not to be overwhelmed by challenges at hand, no matter how little our resources are, lets prioritise the over-arching national objectives:

- Reduce poverty levels
- Reduce unemployment
- Fight inequality

These strategic outcomes must find expression in the synergy we are envisaging with our agencies, Sector Departments, private sector, communities and Developmental Finance Institutions in pursuance of our commitment to improve the quality of lives of the citizens of Mpumalanga.

Optimising Institutional arrangements

The following questions had to be re-iterated over and over during this planning session:

“Do we have the requisite institutional capacity, systems and mix of competencies to execute the POA of the MEGDP?”

“Do we have the adequate financial resources to drive or facilitate the POA for the MEGDP?”

“When it comes to the POA have the roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability between Dedet and its SOE’s been clarified?”

Finally, is each and every leader, manager and operations in our different business units in sync with our overall Departmental vision and mission statement?

(On a lighter note) Can I test this one?

Can I choose for myself without you raising hands, can anyone tell me the vision and mission statement of the Department without hesitation?

Surely, the point I am making is that you cannot align your planning and operations with the vision and mission statement you don’t know. As the Leadership of the Department we must lead by example. Remember the tenets of attuned leadership and that leadership as argued by Reuel Khoza will remain the difference between success and failure in our organisation. I want to say lack of budget is only half the story.

So HOD, I want to emphasise this point that as we put in place all the grand plans, the question of an organisational culture (the way we do things at Dedet) is going to be important because it talks to:

- Efficiencies of our business processes
- The mind-set of the employees, organisational ethos and value systems

I am sure we have all had time constraints in dealing with the fundamentals which are at the core of our aspirations, I will therefore direct that beyond the Cabinet Lekgotla you must reconvene to tie up the loose ends, some of which I've eluded to yesterday which include:

- Organisational structure i.r.o Institutional capacity to MEGDP and CRDP
- Regional Offices
- Role of DFI's especially on the unfunded projects
- Coherent empowerment programme for SMME's and co-operatives
- Finalisation of the delivery agreements

And I can't agree more with the HOD that it is not going to help us to be all over the show. Let's make strategic sacrifices and choices in the interest of positive impact.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen as we carry out this wide-ranging mandate the department should continue to invest on importance of team work and unity of purpose as an integral part of a turnaround strategy.

Unfortunately it would seem that even in the next financial year we are not going to be able to engage in a business re-engineering of our department as planned and this is a serious blow to our turnaround strategy.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for the fruitful engagement over the last two days in particular our strategic partners. I would also like to request that you don't stop the engagements here. Please pass this information down to your team members in the various business units, in order for team Dedet to hit the ground running in the new financial year.

I thank you.