

SPEAKER'S NOTES:

GRAND OPENING OF THE THABA GARE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

- In our quest to realise the mission of the ruling African National Congress - that of **creating decent work and sustainable livelihood** for the people of Mpumalanga, we are mandated as the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, to steer provincial economic growth in order to speed up economic growth and transform the economy.
- This is mostly crucial, given that we've just come out of the biting global economic meltdown, which has seen thousands of people losing their jobs and their livelihood. As a result, many families continue to endure the reality of going to bed on an empty stomach.
- Our challenge, collectively, is to reverse such situations, hence we believe that the opening of *Thaba-Gare* Entertainment Centre, will become one of the stimulus for economic recovery through the creation of sustainable work for the people of Mashishing/Lydenburg.
- We however urge of people to do that responsibly, hence they must take gambling as recreation and not become addicted to it. We want families to remain intact, and not suffer from the effects of irresponsible gambling, hence through our public entity, the Mpumalanga Gambling Board, we will continue to raise awareness in this regard.
- As the Department, we are mandated through the Mpumalanga Gambling Act (Act 1 of 1999) which established the Mpumalanga Gambling Board, to regulate gambling activities in the province.

THE NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH PATH

- Ladies and gentlemen, upon realising the challenges of unemployment and poverty we are facing, our country has come up with what is known as the New Economic Growth Path.

- Through the opening of this entertainment centre, I believe we are contributing, though minimally, towards addressing some of the challenges identified by the country's new growth path.

- **Mpumalanga Economic Growth Path:**
 - An extended sitting of the Executive Council will be held next week from 14-15 December to look at the draft proposal of the Provincial Economic Growth and Development Path.
 - This will pave the way for all stakeholders to come under one roof to agree on one common growth path for the province.
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Identified jobs drivers for economic growth:

1. Substantial public investment in infrastructure both to create employment directly, in construction, operation and maintenance as well as the production of inputs, and indirectly by improving efficiency across the economy;
2. Targeting more labour-absorbing activities across the main economic sectors – the agricultural and mining value chains, manufacturing and services;
3. Taking advantage of new opportunities in the knowledge and green economies;
4. Leveraging social capital in the social economy and the public services;
5. Fostering rural development and regional integration.

Industrial Policy Action Plan 2 (IPAP 2)

- We believe that through the Industrial Policy Action Plan 2, more opportunities will be created for businesses as the country accelerates industrial growth and diversification.