

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MDM, Me.  
FANISWA CHAINE AT THE DISTRICT GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT OF MOTHEO HELD AT MANGAUNG  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CITY HALL ON THE 06<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007  
AT 09H00.**

Madam Premier, Me. Beatrice Marshoff,  
Members of the Executive Council of the Free State Legislature,  
The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Free State Legislature, Ntate Mxolisi  
Dukwana, Me. Charlotte Lobe respectively,  
Members of the Free State Legislature present,  
The Executive Mayor of Mangaung, Me. Gertrude Mothupi,  
Members of Mayoral Committees present,  
Speakers from various municipalities present,  
Organized Local Government in Free State,  
Non-Governmental Organizations present,  
Representatives from Trade Union movement,  
Representatives from Commercial Banks,  
Representatives from Agricultural Unions,  
Various Sector Departments in the Free State,  
Institutions of Higher Learning present,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Congress of the People held in Kliptown on the 25 and 26 of June 1955  
adopted a framework model of an alternative society that defines the  
creation of a non racial, non sexist, united and democratic South Africa. It

outlined this in a document called the Freedom Charter that among other aspects contained in this document; there is a clause that reads:

***“The People Shall Share in the Country’s Wealth”***

As we deeply analyze areas of our economy in the Free State and Motheo District in particular; one would note various sectors that could be exploited in ensuring poverty eradication and job creation in pursuit of this noble principle.

The struggle for liberation was and shall never be reduced into the political power hence political power without economic emancipation is equal to no freedom at all.

Our country today is faced with number of challenges, to name but few, narrow the gap between the First and Second economy. The first economy that comprises of big businesses and well established individuals who control the mode of production and to a large extent tend to influence policy formulation and direction of government in delivering services to our people.

This economy, programme director remain a challenge on its own as to how can we penetrate it and transform it to contribute amicably in creating opportunities for the developing entrepreneurs and SMMEs, pulling these who fall within the Second economy to join them or rather be able to compete fairly in the market.

All those who are in the First economy are now in control of the societal development; community development projects are snatched by them

because competition is minimal at this level. The amazing issue is that, very few people are participants in the first economy while majority of our people, black people in general and Africans in particular are rolling, swimming and battling to make ends meet through high level of competition at the Second economy.

It is characterized by lack of skills, poor financial management and control system, lack of assistance and an envy to snatch or catch the fattest worm in the industry irrespective of whether, there is capacity or no capacity. The main reason is to become rich very fast and join their counterpart in the first economy.

The practice has since shown that, very few are able to join the first economy and those in the first economy begins to monopolize the industry as they can not be challenged by those in the second economy.

The human capital has very serious bearing in the development of economy countrywide. Skilled and learned people that we may begin developing interest and hope on their success in business; once established, they leave the district and the province to venture in more capital projects that makes them to compete at the international level and give them a share in the first economy. As a district, we are then left with a challenge of developing others of which we do so in an anticipation of losing at the end.

We however believe, this summit that we are in today shall further come up with human capital retention strategies that shall assist in maintaining the growth and development trends of the district, more so that of the province.

Programme Director, we have a district that has elements of industrial and agricultural economies in the main. We further are able to dig deep in tourism market and animal farming; the problem we have is how effective are we able to make these economic sectors work and produce better results, while improving on our District's Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Product respectively.

We have gone abroad as a district, in various countries in Africa and beyond; we have learnt more of economies of these countries. While in Langfang Municipality in China, we realized that, their GDP is mainly from agriculture and the people in that country are not experiencing the high rate of poverty as everybody participate in the economic mainstream.

As we make comparison with our district, we found that, we have lot of underutilized land that could be transformed for creating opportunities for agricultural development and create job opportunities for our people at will.

I am also challenging everybody in this summit, to begin cracking the most white monopolized industry in our region, which is the property market. This market has been wholly controlled and exploited by the white minorities while the large number of our African people does not have a share on the bigger cake.

When and at what stage shall we say, the economy of this country is shared among all its citizens equally? At what stage the citizens of this country shall their dignity be restored and poverty becomes the talk of the past?

We did not fight for our people to be impoverished while the few continue to benefit and economically grow indefinite. This summit must begin to answer these questions through debate and engagements until tomorrow.

I must further say that; we can meet, engage and resolve on specific strategies as the district, but without commitment of all spheres of government through participation and support; the current challenges that we are here to find solutions to avert will remain with us for longer period than this.

It is therefore, important for both local municipalities, districts, provincial and national government to join hands and pull together in war against underdevelopment and poverty, through sharing of skills, knowledge and expertise that we can conquer these challenges that we are facing today.

The role of business should not be minimized to a level of monetary support and expertise only rather must also be tasked to open avenues for our people to join the economic mainstream at ease. Job creation should not be the responsibility of government alone but a shared one with business sector.

Minister of finance, Trevor Manuel, has increased a budget on the development of SMMEs. The purpose of this decision is not about SMMEs enriching themselves with the allocation but contribute in assisting the government on its objective of halving unemployment and poverty by 2014. The challenge should then be how do we access these funds as SMMEs and begin to run with programmes that will enable our growth so as to compete in a large market.

As government on the other side, we have a responsibility to empower our people through development of SMMEs with various specialties. We need to be able to manage competition in order to enlarge the growth avenues for our SMMEs. We need to provide support and monitoring to business development in partnership with macro business.

Programme Director, as I looked into the list of invitees during the week; It came to my realization that, the trade union movement is invited and confirmed its attendance to this summit of which I value that. I however thought of the role the trade union movement should be challenged with at this summit; and what came into my mind was, how effective and efficient could the trade union movement be in addressing the demands of growth and development in the country and the district in particular?

It is always said, trade unions are there to incite workers to strike for higher wages and saturate the profit of various companies, and the question is, how real is this opinion? As our focus is growth and development, I believe the role of the trade union movement is to educate and develop the workforce and ensure that, targets that are set by companies and government are realized at a minimal rate of conflict. It must be in a position of prioritizing the strategic goals of the government, the national democratic revolution concurrently without compromising the needs and demands of the workers.

The watchdog role that the trade union movement continues to play must be intensified, however in a complementary manner without contradicting the objective towards the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, united and democratic South Africa.

The basic conditions of employment at the workplace must be honoured and implemented as stipulated; this would assist us in ensuring consultations at all levels with regard developments that takes place from time to time.

Programme Director, as we discuss at this summit, we further remember that, one of the challenges of government is addressing the pressing issue of social security, combat crime, corruption and other acts that would contribute in undermining the democratic gains since 1994.

Let us also remember that, the freedom we cherish; was never acquired easily but most of the people have died for and it will be their pleasure if we could make our country a better place to live in. In particular, let us remember what Utata Rolihlahla Mandela words of courage even when he was at the dock of the Treason Trial when he said:

***“I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for, and see realized. But my lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”***

Utata is still alive. As we proceed with the summit, even if we may not make him see his dream realized, at least, let us try to shape the way and heed to the direction of the ideal society he dreamt to see.

In Conclusion, Programme Director, I would like to declare this District Growth and Development Summit officially opened and wishes you all,

intensive and robust debates in endeavor to bring about realistic strategies that would make it possible for us to meet the set objectives by the President.

Thank you.