

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PAT NGOMANE, MPL, DURING THE BBBEE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE NUTTINGHOUSE GUEST LODGE, BURNSIDE, CITY OF MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Friday, 30 August 2019

Ladies and gentlemen, **Good Morning/ San'bonani!**

1. It gives me pleasure to address, and even chair this all-important meeting, of the **Mpumalanga BBBEE Advisory Council**. This is my first engagement with you as the Advisory Council, since I was appointed to the Portfolio which incorporates Economic Development and Tourism.
2. As this is the first meeting I will be chairing, I will therefore rely on you, to walk baby-steps with me. I trust that **we will collectively deliver on our mandate of ensuring that the majority our people, are economically empowered.**
3. You are all aware of the founding responsibilities of the Advisory Council, which are dictated by **Section 4 of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003, as amended by Act 46 of 2013.**

4. As the Advisory Council, we are thus instructed to use our power to **ensure that the previously and historically disadvantaged individuals, the majority of whom are black people, are economically empowered** in our quest to deal with the **triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality** within our communities.
5. As government, we are not comfortable that the minority of our people, still benefit largely from economic opportunities being made available by our government.
6. Our work, therefore, should always be **biased towards ensuring that the status quo changes** towards benefitting the majority of our people.
7. That is why we have enacted the BBBEE legislation, to make sure that our government **transit towards radical socio-economic transformation**, which is underpinned by:
 - **Re-industrialisation;**
 - **Infrastructure development;**
 - **Enhancement of skills required by the economy; and further**
 - **Utilise the democratic power of the state to drive economic transformation with focus on the supply side.**

8. I believe that as the Council, you are aware of the transgressions of the BBBEE legislation, especially at the local level; hence **we require your collective minds and muscles to foster adherence to empowerment prescripts.**
9. One of our critical function, as the Advisory Council to the Provincial Government, is to **“facilitate partnership between organs of state and the private sector that will advance the objective of the BBBEE Act”**.
10. In this regard, I would like us to **take stock and review the progress** we have made in facilitating such partnership.
11. I believe that since the appointment of this Advisory Council in 2017, many strides were made; however, this can only be tested through such a Review Report.
12. We need to appraise the Executive Council, on what difference have we made, to ensure that the majority of our people are also economically empowered.
13. When we meet next time, **we must look into such a Report, and finalise it for submission to the Executive Council.** I trust we can do that.

Ladies and gentlemen;

14. You will all agree with me that **Economic Transformation and Job creation** – which is one of the top priorities of the sixth (6th) Administration – can only be realised when Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment is realised in the true sense of the phrase.
15. Let us make it a reality. The improvement of the lives of our people squarely depend on the transformation of our economy.
16. *Let's grow Mpumalanga together, by ensuring that the previously and historically marginalised, also benefit from economic opportunities availed by our government.*
17. I thought I must start by tracing our steps backwards, to remind us why this Advisory Council was established. We are a **crucial body, and must strive to live up to expectations.**
18. Those were just my Opening Remarks, and I now declare this meeting officially opened.