WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR, CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT ECONOMIC SUMMIT HELD AT LOSKOP DAM ON THE 11TH OF JUNE 2019

**Programme Director** 

Minister for Dept of Small Business Development Hon Ntshavheni

The Premier of Limpopo Hon Mathabatha

MEC for Dept of Limpopo Economic Development, Environment & Tourism Hon Mokone

SDM Executive Mayor Cllr Ramaila

Local Mayors present here

Magoshi a rena

Members of the Sekhukhune Executive Committee

Distinguished guests

Municipal officials

member of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

## Thobela

It is indeed an honour for us, as the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, to have been chosen to host such an important summit.

For us, this summit, is but one of the many decisive steps, that our government is taking to ensure that at the local sphere, we are able to discuss and create platforms for both the private and public sector to exchange views on this very critical component of our economy that is ensuring that Small businesses are supported, through legislation and other mechanisms, to be an integral part of the economic development.

## **Programme Director**

This particular summit will also help to remind us, as the municipality and participants, of our responsibility and obligation to create a better environment for small businesses and enterprises to thrive both in domestic and international markets.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all well aware that as a country we are grappling with a huge triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality and our Municipality is not an exception to these challenges.

While our economy strongly features successful large industries which have contributed significantly to maintaining a stable economy, amid unfavorable district economic conditions. I firmly believe that a well-developed small business sector can be the backbone to a sustainable economy.

However, studies have shown that the main issues preventing the growth of small business are often around access to finance, access to markets and skills. This is the motivation for the municipalities to intervene and ensure that young people are well equipped to conceptualize, initiate and operate successful enterprises which will develop into future big business.

## **Programme Director**

Among the key sectors that keep our District economic engine running are: Community services, trade, financial services, mining, agriculture and tourism.

In closing allow me to say, let us all make this world a better place for you and for me and for the future generation.

Kindly note that we value your presence and we welcome all the contributions to make this summit a success.

"Accelerating inclusive economic growth and job creation in Sekhukhune District through Investments and Partnerships"

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME AND I THANK YOU!