

Speech by Councillor Nkosenhle Madlala during TheDTI rural and township dialogue held at Durban Botanic Gardens, 11 June 2017

Programme Director,

Minister of Trade and Industry – Dr Rob Davies,

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental affairs – Mr Sihle Zikalala,

Panellists,

Government officials,

Special guests,

Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Mayor who could not be with us due to constituency related commitment. We would like to thank you for choosing Durban to host this important breakfast meeting.

We really appreciate the move by our government to invest in development of our rural areas and townships. These areas are largely occupied by African people who were marginalised by the apartheid system. Our communities were dumped in township so that they could supply their labour power to the economy. They were viewed only as consumers and nothing else. They were restricted from partaking in the economy.

Our government has done a lot in terms of developing our townships into economic hubs and we have seen infrastructural investments by our ANC government. Clearly, there is an opportunity to develop further. The rural land can be used for agricultural purposes including commercial farming.

In our city, through our Planning we continue to undertake short, medium to long term plans in order to facilitate new investment, redevelopment of land as well as regulation of the built environment. In the current

financial year, the following plans will be completed and adopted by Council:

- Spatial Development Framework 18/19 Review
- Ward 105 Local Area Plan
- Cato Ridge Local Area Plan review
- Nsimbini –Golokodo Functional Area Plan and Land Use Management Scheme
- Central Densification implementation pilot projects i.e Bonella, Pinetown and Chatsworth
- Student accommodation Precinct Plan -
- Mpumalanga Northern Functional Area Plan and land Use Management Scheme

In addition, we have witnessed successful implementation of the Spatial Planning & Land Use Management Bylaw which will catalyse further reforms in the City's Planning system.

Programme director,

Our focus is on Automotive sector or cluster. The automotive industry in KwaZulu-Natal is an important sector of the South African motor manufacturing industry. There are eight local producers of light motor vehicles in South Africa, (of which one of the biggest is located in KZN), as well as two producers of medium and heavy vehicles.

imports and exports through the car terminal in Durban amounted to about 213,000 in 2005 but are projected to rise to 389,000 by 2020. Durban and KZN consists of approximately 100 firms, employing 18,000 workers, and contributes an estimated 1.3% to the province's gross geographic product.

This is a clear indication that automotive sector is one of the key sectors in our province and the city. This is one of the reason we established and mature public-private partnership (PPP) between the eThekweni Municipality and the automotive manufacturing sector in KZN, DAC was created to promote the growth and competitiveness of the local automotive industry.

DAC was established in 2002, today the cluster is represented by 45 companies collectively employing approximately 17,000 people. As an industry driven initiative it draws on leadership and expertise of individuals from a broad range of automotive member firms and uses it to identify and address a wide variety of challenges confronting the industry.

Programme Director, I am also delighted the NAACAM Show 2019 will be hosted by eThekweni Municipality in partnership with the Durban Automotive Cluster (DAC). This second iteration of the show will take place at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) on 12 – 14 March 2019. The decision followed a competitive host city bidding process.

The NAACAM Show aims to become the premier automotive manufacturing growth, technology, transformation and stakeholder engagement forum in Africa.

In relation to township and rural development, am pleased by the progress we have made in trying to expand this sector and bringing closer to our people to act as a catalyst for our local economic growth. In the pipeline, there is a development of a massive automotive supplier park on a 1,000-hectare site on the Illovo River banks indicates that the largest government-driven project planned for the south.

The Illovo Auto Supplier Park- this R11,5billion project is expected to create 2,500 jobs during construction and 6,000 permanent jobs after completion. This project is strategically located in the south next to townships and rural areas. These opportunities will development the people of this area and its local economy.

It is the partnership between us, TOYOTA, and province. It will give opportunities to black and small manufactures to supply TOYOTA with products.

Another project in Umlazi township is The Ezimbuzini Auto-Hub which has changed Umlazi' business landscape through the establishment of formal business accommodation workshops for auto-mechanics and panel beaters. The objective is to provide proper business premises, build

capacity and technical accreditation while improving access to markets. The project is valued at R21 million and provides business accommodation for 20 workshop facilities and a spares shop.

A lot more can be achieved and we need to all work together. We need to skill and formalise our mechanics and panel beaters who are based in rural and townships. Our universities and training entities must also play their role in giving skills for the work and running of businesses.

Programme Director, I thank you for the opportunity and looking forward to a fruitful engagement as we celebrate the youth month and year of President Mandela. I think it is important that we get more youth into the sector. We welcome initiative of VOLVO in KwaMakhutha for training young people. We are proud and hope we all participate in the youth empowerment project for the future of this nation.

With those words, I thank you.