



SEKHUKHUNE
District Municipality

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Office of the Executive Mayor

REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE ON THE OCASSION OF THE CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP RAPID INCUBATOR ON THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2022 AT LOSKOP DAM, FOREVER RESORT, ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Programme director,

MEC Rodgers Monama,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Cllr David Tladi,

Other councillors present,

Leadership of the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator,

All other stakeholders present,

The 2022 incubation Cohort,

All representatives of SMMEs present,

Friends from the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening!!

Programme director,

On behalf of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Julia Lata Mathebe, it's a real pleasure to be here with you to give support on progress being made here.

It is indeed one of the practical steps considering the fact that all of us, as local government, the private sector and civil society we are demanding better ways to achieve local economic development, which is a cornerstone of sustainable development.

The sought collaboration to build resilient communities for **economic development in Sekhukhune District** is getting evident piece by piece.

We must remember that break-throughs like these are fundamentally at the top of the list as we look back at the economic impact from the pandemic.

Programme Director:

Lately here in October we were invited in a youth expo seeking to sensitize our youth to consider **entrepreneurship** and **self-employment**.

Of-course we used the expertise of relevant stakeholder information in this field to advise our youth on the related matters and the opportunities thereof.

But **Program Director** we must be honest with ourselves and those we want to help!

We must not shy away from the fact that there is a lot at stake. Today more than ever it is education that can deliver progress.

When we invest in education, we commit ourselves to the development of our communities and the future welfare of our society.

By combining **entrepreneurship education and interaction with business**, students can develop the **practical skills, knowledge and attitudes** that allow them to innovate.

In that expo I emphasised certain important and introspective questions; and with a platform such as this I believe that I need to repeat:

Program Director I asked if our people, especially young people are preparing themselves for a **knowledge-based economy** and if we still instil or train our young people to seek only for jobs?

Are our youth empowered enough to know that they themselves can be creators of hope for our nation, especially the district?

This is why when programs such as the one you are witnessing today succeed, we want to support and eventually grow them exponentially.

We want to join in because we must **partner and collaborate**.

But mainly, we want to be part because with these programs you are directly answering the questions I have just asked.

You may not realize this but programs like this help us with ideas for **IDP and LED planning**. They help us with data and can therefore translate into crucial information that can transition into strategy in many folds.

If we follow your example we can build on every existing educational centres and the like, to connect them and to bridge the gap between ideas and business creation.

As for this class of 2022 Cohort, let us follow through and continue to monitor, mentor, and materialize their efforts for both creativity, jobs and sustainable businesses.

Program Director:

This is why I call for a real change of mind-set in our institutions and partners towards a more **entrepreneurial culture where creativity, self-confidence and the ability to take calculated risk** are promoted and rewarded.

I cannot forget to mention equity in this whole endeavour.

Program Director a dedicated entrepreneurship program must stimulate change in gender relations; it must seek to consider women [especially young women] as part of an overall ecosystem surrounding their efforts to start or expand a business.

Together with all business development players we need to revisit our local communities in understanding their economic aspirations and the levels of business knowledge especially that of young people and women in particular.

Program Director:

There is a gap, and we may speak as much as we like but **insufficient financial resources and market competition** are the most limiting issues reported by those who prefer entrepreneurship.

I invite parties/stakeholder to get preoccupied with fresh ideas on how to tackle the issues of **financing and markets for small business development, especially in areas or districts like ours.**

Let us intensely explore the role **of innovative financing** in sharing the risk of supporting entrepreneurship.

Program Director:

Education and business also need to engage more decisively in structured forms of cooperation.

Such partnerships could enrich the innovation potential of the civil services involved and substantially improve the learning and teaching environments that guarantee entrepreneurial success.

The health of a society depends on the quality of the education it imparts to its citizens.

Sekhukhune district municipality stands committed to work collaboratively with national organizations, regional organizations and province, to sustainably promote vocational education and training.

Particularly, we want to ensure that our **youth receives the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and innovative thinking.**

So, we commend all of your teams who worked tirelessly through **piloting to implementation.**

We say continue to add numbers to such programs and ensure that the main ingredient is quality.

Ga di ba tsogele!

I thank you.