

## **COLLINS CHABANE YOUTH JOB SUMMIT CLOSING ADDRESS**

Good morning! Rixile! Ndimacheloni!

As we conclude our Job Summit today, it gives me pleasure to be part of this very historic gathering well organized by our YOUTH COUNCIL. This is an indication that the leadership indeed possesses a true vision to lead our young people. This is Biblically confirmed in Proverbs 29:18 "A nation without a vision is doomed". Another translation says: "where there is no vision people perish". We cherish the visionary leadership that is displayed by our Youth Council leadership.

### **Programme Director,**

We are meeting during a significant and a very historic month in South Africa, Youth Month. This came as a result of the pioneers of youth activities in 1976. The youth of 1976 fought for freedom and the creation of a democratic state, today's youth activism is directed towards successfully tackling the challenges of combating Poverty, Unemployment, Inequality, HIV and AIDS, Personal Development, Economic Freedom and the development of the country

The advent of the of the post-colonial and post-apartheid democratic political dispensation brought about a NEW WAY of looking at the DAY by REDEDICATING it to the YOUTH of South Africa. Since the tragic incident, 16 June has been commemorated as YOUTH DAY and is a PUBLIC HOLIDAY in South Africa. This is to perpetuate the memory of those who died and suffered during this day as well as to carry on with their legacy and principles of selflessness determination and devotion that are necessary for success and growth for any society or nation.

### **Programme Director,**

Borrowing from the president of the country Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa when addressing 2018 Jobs Summit: I quote

"we gather here today to answer the call of the people of South Africa for decent work.

We have gathered here, as social partners, having agreed on a broad range of measures to and protect jobs.

Unemployment is the greatest challenge facing our country at this moment in history.

Unemployment diminishes our ability to eradicate poverty, tackle inequality and improve the lives of the working class and poor.

It has a devastating effect on families and communities, eroding people's dignity and contributing to social problems like poor health, poor education outcomes, substance abuse and crime.

The extreme unemployment in this country is the product of an economy that for several decades has been starved of any meaningful investment in its human capital, where most people have been denied the opportunity to own assets or develop skills".

Programme Director,

Creating jobs is about growing the economy. Once the country's economy is booming, then jobs will also be massively created. Our economic performance has also been undermined by STATE CAPTURE and CORRUPTION in both PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS and PRIVATE COMPANIES. Many people, especially YOUNG PEOPLE, lack the SKILLS and WORK EXPERIENCE needed to find a job and experience needed to find a job and participate meaningfully in the economy.

The jobs that have been created over the past few years have not kept PACE with the GROWTH of the POPULATION or the EXPANSION OF THE WORKFORCE! We have therefore gathered here at this Jobs Summit to respond to these ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, which manifest themselves through the triple challenge: UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY!

In the NDP (National Development Plan), for us to tackle the triple challenge effectively and sustainably, we should aim to reduce UNEMPLOYMENT to at least 6% by 2030 which is 11 years from now. One of the GREAT DIFFICULTIES we are faced with in recent times, is that COOPERATION between Communities, Labour, Business and Government has WEAKENED, making it difficult to ADVANCE THE COLLECTIVE INTEREST!

Working together as Collins Chabane stakeholders we can do more. Remember it was working together that we managed to overcome apartheid. We brought to end to an intractable conflict that had raged for generations. We were able to write a DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION that guarantees the EQUAL RIGHTS OF ALL!

We all need to know and understand that Jobs Summit is not a ONCE-OFF event, but the first step of the first phase of an extensive process in which all of us we will work closely together to improve the GROWTH, PROTECT EXISTING JOBS AND CREATE NEW JOBS. As a local municipality, we understand that we need have various initiative which will avail job opportunities. We need to work with the business community in making sure we create new jobs.

There are lot of retails within the radius of our municipality which need to assist us in absorbing our young people into the job market. Our SMMEs also need to come to play in assisting us to create new jobs. Our government will continue to advocate, educate, assist and monitor the implementation of the 30% set aside for SMMEs by all spheres of government and their agencies. Cooperatives are one significant wing which can assist us in introducing our youth into the work environment and partake actively in the economy of the country. We are also assisting a reasonable number of Cooperatives as I mentioned in our SOMA (State of the Municipal Address).

Our municipality is leading the way in terms of Youth Employment. Out of the total workforce of Collins Chabane, Youth boast above 60% of the employees as correctly stated in SOMA. As a municipality we are indeed empowering our young people. We are setting a crystal clear example on how to assemble a youthful team of administrators in the form of Secretaries, PA, clerical, managers and other categories of our workforce. Let us join hands and work together to can achieve great outcomes of this very Jobs Summit.

This summit comes at a time when unemployment rate has reached 27.7 percent with young people constituting over 50%. As a municipality we upfront support the proposals by NYDA which government has to take into serious cognisance. Here are the proposals:

- Breaking down barriers of entry into the job market. This includes enabling broadband access through lowering data costs, as massive data costs are a hindrance for young job seekers.
- To acknowledge that skills are not limited to matric, diplomas and degrees, emphasis should be on recognising informal skills as important for job creation.
- To enable greater mentorship in the workspace to prevent dropouts and increase retention

- Acknowledging of experience gained through INTERNSHIPS programmes and convert the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to permanent employment.
- Support Youth Cooperatives
- Support of local industries by reducing the red tape on SMMEs and make grant funding available as opposed to loans. This involves the participation of Young people in Agriculture, Tourism, and hospitality sectors

In conclusion programme Director,

We are also confident that this will not be another TALK-SHOP as other stakeholders have already suggested but will produce tangible results to the benefit of ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.

INKOMU

THANK YOU