

**COLLINS CHABANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

Since 2016



Opening and Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, His Worship, Cllr Maluleke Moses, during the Event of CCLM Business EXPO in partnership with Amos Vuma Foundation. The event was held on the 15th of August 2019 at Malamulele Boxing Gym from 08h00 in the morning.

Acknowledgements:

- **Members of the Executive Committee,**
- **Councillors,**
- **Presenters in different topics,**
- **Young businesspeople,**
- **Captains of Industry,**
- **Stakeholders,**
- **Members from the media;**
- **Faith based organisations;**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**
- **All protocol observed,**

Good Morning!

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our first-ever two-day Business EXPO, taking place for the first time in Collins Chabane Municipality. This important event is made very significant by the fact that it is held during the month which is venerated as Women's month in the South African calendar – in honour of the more than 20 thousand women who marched to the Union Buildings in August 1956, to march against the pass laws – the barbaric laws which sought to subject black people as semi-humans in their native land.

We commemorate this month as South Africans, as a month of egalitarians who paved way for the new South Africa where everyone is equal, irrespective of colour, gender, creed or religion. We salute those women for their odd-defying resilience and determination. We also appreciate the women of today, took over the fight and continue to confront the challenges of today. We say thank you – *Imbokodo*.

Programme Director,

On behalf of the Council of Collins Chabane Municipality, we are glad to host you in this important EXPO that I have no doubt, will be a success. This event, which is also a key development programme, is set to transform the lives of our aspiring young businesspeople by equipping them with powerful information to succeed in their businesses – as well as enchant those who are already well established into reached new and better heights in the corporate world.

Accordingly, I would like to extend my hearty appreciations to the Amos Vuma Foundation as well as other sponsors who are here today, for partnering with us as government, to unleash and unearth the hidden capacities of our young and upcoming entrepreneurs in and around Collins Chabane Municipality. Your contribution to our vision of becoming a sustainable, spatially integrated and inclusive municipality with a vibrant job creating economic does not go unnoticed. Thank you so much.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I also wish to extend a warm welcome to you all as we officially open this Business EXPO. This initiative is amongst a string of other initiatives that our Municipality is rolling out to practicalize the notion of a better life for all as aspired by the government of the day which is led by the African National Congress. It is an opportunity to engage the well-experienced with the youth on entrepreneurship and innovation.

It offers young people multiple opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and diverse talents in entrepreneurship. During the event, young people will be addressed by various sector specialists, policy experts, government leaders and officials who will share knowledge and discuss solutions to the challenges facing young entrepreneurs in particular.

The event will focus primarily on entrepreneurial development, with emphasis on creating an environment conducive for the start-up and development of small and medium business ventures as key drivers to economic growth and job creation.

This month is about the women of this country and I strongly believe that this summit will contribute in building women leaders who will take the business industry forward and in return, contribute enormously to Collins Chabane Municipality's GDP. Our municipality is young and fresh – it is well positioned with vast opportunities to become one of the best economies in the province. We are at the gateway to one of the world acclaimed National Parks – the Kruger National Park amongst many other opportunities.

Programme Director,

I also believe that the meeting will boost job creation to decrease the youth unemployment rate of 29 percent in South Africa – according to the Statistics South Africa's recent census. The economic potential of Collins Chabane is diverse in that it offers a range of sector opportunities where young entrepreneurs can play a meaningful role.

Our sectors of focus include manufacturing, tourism, mining, clothing and textile and business process outsourcing.

We must also become a role player in the economy and strongly feature in industries which will contribute significantly to maintaining a stable economy, amid unfavourable global 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 municipality to intervene and ensure that our people are well equipped to conceptualise, initiate and operate successful enterprises which will develop into future big business.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am reminded of the words of our President Cyril Ramaphosa during Freedom Day celebrations in April this year where he made a call to action. He said: “We can and should make our economy receptive to employing young people and to enable the youth to create their own jobs through becoming entrepreneurs. We urge the business sector and labour to work with government further, to implement the youth employment accord and to provide opportunities for our young people.”

I guarantee you that Collins Chabane Local Municipality is starting to respond to the call to action made by our President. We are committed to the development of young people, ensuring that they develop and optimise opportunities in order to take-up positions of leadership in society, whether in entrepreneurial activities, business, politics or civic life through our various youth Municipal programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have launched a Collins Chabane Youth Council, followed by the recently organised Tourism Launch and Women in Tourism summit which were held during the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 financial years. We are also exploring ways in which we can give our people the necessary exposure in the elite corporate world – and this programme does justice to that notion.

In closing, I would like to wish you a successful event. As government, we believe that investing in our youth and women, as well as focus special attention to their skills development is crucial to the country's future economic growth. Let's work together in taking Collins Chabane Municipality and South Africa forward.

I thank you.