



LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

JOB SUMMIT DECLARATION

20 – 21 JULY 2011

We, as representatives of Lekwa Local Municipality, business, government sector departments, government agencies, civil society and other social formations in Lekwa, met on 20 – 21 July 2011 at Lekwa's inaugural job summit. This Summit comes as the result of a renewed popular local manifesto mandate that Lekwa Local Municipality must develop a five year programme that will seek to build the local economy, create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

Consolidated efforts will inform our common goal of speeding up the creation of decent work for all, overcoming poverty, deep-seated inequality and addressing rural marginalisation.

The current economic challenges faced by Lekwa have been brought on by trends in the global and national economy has been characterised by the shutdown of a number of key factories and businesses in the area and the decline in agricultural sector.

High unemployment levels and the current socio-economic profile of Lekwa have the potential of further exacerbating the declining economic growth potential of the area.

Potential investors, including cooperatives and other forms of entrepreneurship can only be attracted through sound investment policies, institutional coherence and coordination that can allow for the meaningful participation of all in the local economy.

Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) are not adequately capacitated to access available business opportunities, whilst at the same time existing businesses are disinvesting from Lekwa, yet financial and non-financial instruments are available that can be accessed and used to actively leverage the means for potential investment into Lekwa.

Improved and streamlined administrative processes can greatly assist in improving the efficiency with which land can be accessed for business development opportunities.

Potential investment opportunities can be exploited by the municipality in partnership with the business sector, government institutions and the community at large by building capacity to supply the relevant skills base to meet the necessary requirements of the economic sector drivers.

Recognising and acknowledging that Lekwa requires an economy that must be able to meet the needs of its economic citizens, its people and its enterprises in a sustainable manner, this can only be achieved if our area builds on the full potential of its entire people

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE AND COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. Create an enabling environment that is conducive to tapping into the investment and economic growth potential of our natural and human resources;
2. Support initiatives that will bring economic growth and development to the area in partnership with government institutions and other key role players;
3. Facilitate opportunities of growth, capacity building and empowerment for SMMEs;
4. Create opportunities to enable meaningful participation in the mainstream local economy that will create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

We, as signatories to this declaration undertake and commit to heed the call of our popular mandate to create more jobs, decent work and sustainable livelihoods for a better life for all.