

Speech at the Career Exhibition by Cllr. Elisa Lande, held at Beatrix Gold Mine on the 27th September 2007

Programme Director

Vice President of the Beatrix Gold Mine, Mr. Phillip Schoeman

Mr. Piet van der Merwe from Department of Education

Beatrix Gold Mine Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very glad to be here to officiate at the launch of the Education & Careers Exhibition on behalf of the Executive Mayor who has attended another commitment. It is important to honour this exhibition as it is the determinant of the future of our country. If we need more economists, we will then channel our young people to focus on that career for the benefit of our country than to import scarce skills. The exhibition today seeks to provide our young people with the latest information on training, further studies and career opportunities.

Today's event marks the launch of the Education & Careers Exhibition which exposes young people to the careers out there. Over the years, the exhibitions and/or expo has established itself as the leading event of its kind. Most of our students benefited from these exhibitions especially those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. I am delighted to learn that nearly a number of exhibitors from various institutions including our own district municipality participate in the event today. We have a stall to exhibit our material where young people can get career guidance. Through exhibitions, seminars, forums and video shows in this event, visitors will learn a lot about education and career opportunities.

Despite the steady improvement in the general employment scene, we must continue to equip our young people for the world of work. Indeed, given the rapid development in technology, innovation and globalisation, young people should keep their eyes open and ears close to the ground. They must keep themselves abreast of the labour market situation. There are good employment opportunities in the financial, logistics and information technology services sectors. We will also see a further boost in job opportunities in the tourism, hotel, catering and retail trades.

It is important for our young people to make realistic assessment of their own interests, talent, qualifications and expectations with a view to mapping out their career paths. To achieve their career goals, they should strive to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills. There are plenty of options in store. Further study is one way and on-the-job training is another.

The Government has put in place a number of youth training and work experience programmes which achieved good results in assisting young people in finding jobs. I should stress that learning is a life-long process. Young people must therefore constantly upgrade their skills and knowledge. As the saying goes, no one can tell when an

opportunity comes but only those who are well equipped are capable of making the best of it.

I hope that the comprehensive information available in the exhibition today will help our young people make the right choice in the pursuit of their careers. I wish the exhibition every success and all of you a happy, healthy and successful Year.

Thank you.