

Speech During IDP REP Forum at Toronto Hall, 14 February 2008

Executive Mayor/Mayors

Speakers

Councillors

Officials from Departments

Officials of the Municipalities

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we are converging here to integrate and align programmes of the municipalities and national/provincial departments based in our district. This is done not to duplicate programmes as municipalities that provincial departments are implementing. This process should give effect to the APEX priorities as alluded to in the State of the Nation's Address by the President Thabo Mbeki.

Giving effect to the ideal of cooperative governance has been a major undertaking of government during the first decade of democracy. It has aimed at ensuring that intergovernmental (1) priority setting, (2) resource allocation and (3) implementation takes place in a programmatic, integrated, effective, efficient and sustainable way. Despite all these efforts intergovernmental integration and cooperation has remained a distant ideal.

Emanating from various studies is a consensus that the key constraining factors are (1) a lack of institutional preparedness, (2) capacity constraints and (3) inefficient development planning instruments and systems. Municipalities need to consider and report on the extent to which they are harnessing various government programmes including Project Consolidate, Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). The national and provincial spheres of government, led by the national Programme of Action has been embarking on a project to complete the process of harmonising the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP), the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDS) and municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

Private sector is key to our economic growth hence invited to this forum for them to make inputs for the development of this district. We have far reaching challenges that need the cooperation of both government and business sector. However, I should mention that some of them have already made commitments to contribute towards the development of the district. I hope others will follow soon.

In conclusion, let this process be credible one to debate and consider those twenty four priorities.

I thank you