

Emfuleni Local Municipality's Executive Mayor, Her Worship, Councilor Dikeledi Tsotetsi, official launch of Vaal River Carnival at, North West University Conference Centre.

**Program director
Local business dignitaries,
fellow councilors**

Our newly crowned Miss Emfuleni

**Members of the press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

31st August 2007

It is indeed a pleasure and privilege to speak to you this evening,

This gala dinner marks the official launch of our annual Vaal River Carnival project. The Emfuleni Local Municipality was fortunate to have secured the resources and skills of private sector and social partners in elevating the the spirit of Public Private Partnership. These efforts must be another positive step in maximizing our economic base for the purposes of wealth redistribution in the context of government goals and vision of ASGISA. In the list of challenges facing the Communities of Emfuleni is the unprecedented level of underdevelopment manifesting itself with high levels of poverty, majority of youth and women and people with disabilities being affected by these hard socio-economic realities.

The IDP document remains a necessary guiding compass, whose success is premised on the principle of collective consultation in sharing of ideas, giving feedback which is necessary step to complete our planning cycle of IDP Budget allocation. The challenge to overcome includes cleaning of our billing system, sustainable collection for payment of municipal services by all those members of our communities affording to pay in the quest of creating financially viable municipality. Operation restore dignity is but one of many efforts made by Emfuleni to make sure that we sustain community partnership engagements in changing the faces of our townships, improving the bulk infrastructure using multifaceted investment approach, Our LED cluster must conduct study of working out better ways of supporting our informal traders, legal protected means of survival by identifying demarcated areas, in both Vanderbijl park and Vereeniging CBD including our townships to be , declared HAWKERS ZONES with necessary support infrastructure to protect them against criminal elements, bad weather conditions as means of creating positive linkages to the formal businesses for their medium and long term growth, this initiative must be done in effort of reinforcing compliance with municipal by-laws.

Provision of basic service delivery to reach all corners of our diverse communities including the rural parts of the municipality jurisdiction. In support of our efforts the Provincial government has committed itself in formalizing the existing, informal settlement in an effort of creating sustainable

habitable communities for all our communities including the rural one. The land use management, environment policy strategy to monitor the cleanness' of Vaal river must be at the heart of our long term sustainable development vision of integrating tourism to promote economic ventures, property development, provision of all basic infrastructure for meeting the public social needs ,boosting the private sector investment opportunities in creation of new economic wealth, mindful of the fact that this exercise is no easy one but needs collective dedication and commitment from all role players.

The threads of Land invasion is no solution to the problem of housing backlogs(Provincial government competency) but it only serves to undermine the government planning and cannot be tolerated by government authorities.

Emfuleni recognizes this salient facts that safety, security and comfort is a citizenry constitutional rights, a necessary conditions for peace and development in our municipality, district. As a mega of tourists and hub for investors Emfuleni CARES AND YOU BELONG. It's indeed my honor to recognize the critical role that has been played by the business and private sector in the planning and running of this program in partnership with the municipality.

This event marks the beginning of our Vaal River Carnival. A splendid array of activities, events, workshops and exhibitions will take place in this municipality. This is in keeping with the municipality's commitment to development and creating opportunities for business and tourism to thrive. With this program of cultural empowerment, we are building up momentum for celebrating the Heritage Day on 24th September. We are advancing the need of our people, and citizenry to be recognized as fully contributing social and economic counterparts within our area and outside.

We initiated Vaal River Carnival Project in recognition of those individuals, organizations and institutions that promote and develop the disciplines of economy development and tourism across a number of sectors. We hope that the platforms created through the Vaal River Carnival will help us to collectively develop strategies to increase awareness and opportunities to develop skills to improve productivity.

This gala dinner tonight boasts professional artists and business partners from around the country. This evening will illustrate the working together of public, private sectors and artists on the same stage. Hopefully our young entrepreneurs, public servants and artists will look upon this as an opportunity to embrace the mentorship of their professional counterparts. Music can heal people. The Arts can build bridges by allowing expression that is not necessarily verbal. What we shall learn during this month is that the value of the arts to our people must not be underestimated.

The professional performers have told us of how their works are rejected by galleries and theatres because they are thought to be inferior, too depressing or not appealing enough to wider audiences.

Through this carnival, we are also attempting to sensitize the public regarding their culture, heritage, norms and values and to extinguish the negative images and stereotypes associated with our African population. This program is demonstrating that arts are an infinite and unconditional

field, and participants will feel free to express themselves without the usual physical, social and attitudinal barriers.

I would like to acknowledge that Emfuleni has a unique, diverse and rich heritage - the Vaal River. Because of this heritage, we are able to maintain our distinctiveness and our identity as a tourism and entertainment municipality. As long as we have people willing to invest and as long as there are men and women willing to use their talents and resources, we can keep up with the changes and stay competitive in the 21st century. So I want to make this humble plea for you to invest in the project, as well as in our municipal area.

Once again, allow me to say that I am extremely happy to draw in men and women of this caliber to join hands to make this venture Work.Vaal River Carnival event is an equivalent to the Grahams town Arts festival and the Macufe in Bloemfontein. In an effort to improve the municipality event management capacity and its profitability, we may too have to consider the option of appointing an independent and professional event service provider to fundraise and organize the carnival on terms and conditions of Municipality. However, the municipality will always remain one of the investors/trustees. I am sure that through our joined efforts this dream will be realized.

I would like to thank T-Music man for their involvement in promoting the South African music industry, in particular for recognizing and acknowledging the entertainment and tourism opportunities that are existing here. Your contribution is enormous and it will never be forgotten in the history of the music industry. On behalf of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, I would like to acknowledge that this event means a great deal, not only to those who are being entertained and invested, but also to all the people of Emfuleni, who will be the main beneficiaries.

Lets us all join this carnival of fun and economic renewal of our society in partnership with civil society organs.

In this very last day of celebrating the women's month I *would like to conclude by a special message from*

PAP Honorable Madam President Gertrude Mongella had this to say

Gender Distinction are not fact of nature, they are reproduced socialy, politically, economically, and institutionally they are reproduced at various levels of the family, the community, national and internationally. With women solidarity we shall overcome all this artificial human made barriers.

You belong we Care

I thank you.