

# **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: LEPHALALE INVESTMENT SUMMIT GALA DINNER**

Programme Director,  
The Speaker of Lephale Municipality, Our  
Chief Whip, distinguished guests,  
All other dignitaries, Honourable  
Councillors, and leaders of business,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to have been invited to give a keynote address in this gala dinner on the eve of the inaugural Lephale Investment Summit.

The investment summit is a key part of our efforts as a municipality to attract investment in our municipality and realise the potential of Lephale to become a serious economic factor in the SADC region.

This summit draws together investors from across the country, from across the continent and the world looking for opportunities for new and further investment in our municipality.

While investors seek sustained returns as investors on their investments, they are also looking to become partners in our journey towards sustainable and inclusive development.

We are very clear that the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality will only be effectively addressed through higher levels of inclusive economic growth.

For Lephalale, this requires increased investment in critical areas of the local

economy, especially in areas such as mining and mineral beneficiation, agriculture and agro-processing, as well as tourism.

These industries have tremendous potential to attract large and sustained capital investments to Lephalale.

New investments will contribute to the development of integrated industrial value chains that generate sufficient and significant added value for the local economy and the Limpopo province as a whole.

The value chains create further opportunities for the emergence of more small, medium, and micro enterprises.

These industries will play a key role in the

future growth and development of the Lephale economy with huge potential for exploration, production, and beneficiation.

It is for this reason that as council, we are prepared to go the extra mile to ensure that we create the necessary conditions for business to want to invest here.

We are ready to play our part and listen to potential investors on what we need to do for them to invest in our area.

We are ready to work with business to improve the investment climate and reduce the cost of doing business.

The National Government is undertaking far-reaching structural reforms in the energy, transport, and water sectors – all of which are important for the industries

with the highest potential for growth in Lephhalale.

The national government has taken several steps to achieve security of electricity supply for the whole country.

Conditions for a rapid increase in generating capacity through opening further bid windows for our renewable energy programme and increasing the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects to 100 MW.

These will lead to significant investment opportunities in the field of energy, and Lephhalale has one of the most suitable climatic conditions for solar energy generation in our country.

Our national government continues to

make improvements in the turnaround time for the issuing of water licenses.

This will further improve the investment climate in our area.

Council is currently investigating the possibility of establishing a development agency which, if established, will focus on creating conducive conditions for investors and economic development.

The National Infrastructure Plan aims to support the integration of African economies and the development of intra-Africa regional value chains.

Investing in Lephalale is therefore very strategic because the municipality shares a border with our neighbouring Botswana, which is a corridor to Zambia, DRC and

parts of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

This means that Lephhalale is positioned as a gateway to markets in these countries and other parts of SADC.

Investors must see themselves as our partners, with whom we want to work towards economic development and growth.

There is great potential in this part of our country, great potential for profit and great potential for partnership

**LET US LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!**

I thank you.