

## Mayor`s address at the Department of Agriculture`s Gala Dinner, 18 August 2011, Blydepoort Aventura

Programme Director

Management of the Department of Agriculture

Officials

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

We are humbly honoured to be invited to this august occasion of the department. It is not everyday where are part of the session where departments are gathered to map a wayforward for their plans and programmes for the next financial year. As an important stakeholder and the authority within the communities you are operating it is of great importance that we be part of discussions to improve the lives of our people.

As the new Council of the Greater Tubatse Municipality we have made a commitment to work with all spheres of government to reduce the rate of poverty by creating many job opportunities for our people. Agriculture is one of the pillars of our economy and it is a sector which should be supported at all cost. We have seen the invasion of strategic land which was previously used for agricultural purposes and this is a huge concern for us. As stakeholders we must strive by all means to safeguard land that will bring much relief in our quest to fight poverty and other social injustices.

There are plans which are of importance to our communities but our people are not exposed to those. We must have joint efforts to publicise such projects to our people so that they can make meaningful contribution and to others grab the opportunities and became successful farmers and business people.

We are worried about the rate of young people who are roaming the streets without ant activity that they are engaged in. agriculture should be one of the sectors where young people should go into and excel beyond expectations.

Our Municipality is having arable land that can ne used for agricultural purposes. We would like to make a call to the department to engage us if there is any opportunity for people to go into farming.

Programme Director, we are worried by the collapse of the schemes that were established to assist our people to become sustainable. There are schemes which we were proud of but today they are idling and white elephants. We want to appeal to the department to take this matter seriously and if possible intervene in the disputes between farmers and the strategic partners.

We hope that the engagement which is starting should be something that we must all prioritise so that our planning should in an integrated manner as our government proposes. We would like to wish your session much success and hope that the discussions will bring fruitful results to our communities.

I thank you