

## Mayor's address at the Sod turning Ceremony of the Matome Maponya Mall, 26 August 2011, Taxi Rank Burgersfort

Programme Director

Executive Mayor

Madame Speaker

Chief whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Developers

Councilors

Officials

Distinguished guests

Business Community

Media

Ladies and gentlemen

We are here today to witness the making of history in the Greater Tubatse Municipality. It is history because it is for the Second time within a space of 30 days where the community is gathered here to officiate over the sod turning ceremony of the second Mall to be erected in our jurisdiction. On the 22nd July 2011 we officiated on the sod turning of another development within Burgersfort. This is an indication that our Municipality is growing and we need such facilities to attest to the growth of our economy.

Greater Tubatse is experiencing the fastest growing economy in the country and it is befitting to have such kind of facilities within this location. According to the STATSSa Census results of 2001, our population was estimated at 300 000 comprising of 66 000 households. The Census was conducted at the stage where most of the present mines were still at the prospecting stage. To date we have more than 16 mines which are in operation and that have increased our population tremendously.

We are happy to welcome such kind of an investment in our Municipality because they are line with our vision to create South Africa`s first democratic Platinum City for all. The Limpopo Provincial government through the Limpopo Employment Growth and Development Plan identifies Burgersfort as one of the Provincial economic growth points. The plan is also part of the LED strategy to enhance economic growth and job opportunities for our people.

We would like to applaud Matome Maponya Holdings and their developers for helping us to boost the economy of Greater Tubatse. This Mall will create many jobs during and after construction which will significantly reduce the levels of poverty in our communities.

Programme Director, this initiative is really ground breaking because the rewards brought by the Mall will yield positive results and will lead to the emergence of other sectors including tourism and hospitality. Gone will be the days where our people are travelling to Polokoane, Emalahleni and Mbombela to access high quality retail services.

We would like to make a special request to our developers whom we regard as partners in the social development of our community to utilize the services of the local businesses in areas where they qualify. The time is now for us to engage all stake holders in our endeavour to develop Tubatse as the First democratic Platinum City for all.

We are excited today and we would like our community including business to embrace the investment brought by Matome Maponya Holdings. We are now on course in realizing our vision of becoming `South Africa`s first democratic Platinum City`. We will travel this journey together and let us make this day a reality.

I thank you