

CLOSING ADDRESS BY GAUTENG PREMIER, MR DAVID MAKHURA, AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLANNING INSTITUTE PLANNING AFRICA CONFERENCE. SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG.

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Programme Director, Mr Jayendra Naidoo
President of SAPI, Ms Nthato Minyuku
Executive Mayor and Deputy National Chairperson of Salga, Cllr Mpho Nawa
Board Members of South African Planning Institute
Business leaders, Academics and Planning Practitioners
DG and senior government officials from Provincial and Local Government
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to start by conveying my sincere gratitude to you for organising a very successful Conference under the theme: "Making sense of the future: Disruption and Reinvention".

At the conclusion of SAPI's last conference in 2014, the Gauteng Provincial Government and Municipalities in our province undertook to host the next conference. It is gratifying that we have been able to accomplish this commitment because every commitment made must always be honoured. Planning or lack of it is critical to the problems of informality and inequality plaguing the urban ecosystem in the developing world.

The South African Planning Institute's Planning Africa Conference coincides with your Institute's Twentieth Anniversary. I hereby wish you a happy 20th Birthday. We hope you will continue, over the next decade, to grow and help us to make sense of the implications of the rapid and profound technological, demographic and environmental change experienced by both the earth and humanity in the 21st century.

There is an unsettled dispute about whether it was Abraham Lincoln or Peter Drucker who said, "the best way to predict the future is to create it". What we do know is that this profound statement is more relevant today than ever before. Scholars of future studies have captured the same essential reality by saying that "the best way to predict the future is to anticipate it".

I suppose the idea of planning is about influencing the future positively and proactively. This includes disrupting patterns of the present that are undesirable and unsustainable. A progressive sense, planning seeks to create a future that more equitable, inclusive, just and sustainable.

I am certain that during this Conference, you had intense debates on the role of planning in creating a more sustainable, equitable and just urban and rural ecosystems.

Judging from the Programme of this Conference, I am certain that as planning experts and practitioners, you had time to analyse the critical challenges facing our world, our continent, our country as well as its regions, towns and cities.

You probably see spatial disruption and re-invention as part of the deliberate responsibilities and subversive role of both planners and policy-makers alike. You also had extensive discussions on technology and innovation; reinventing planning thought and philosophical paradigms in response to technological and demographic challenges, and improving land use management and urban development in response to the growing force of urbanisation.

All the conversations underscore the role of planners in anticipating and creating a more desirable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

During the course of this conference you heard from experts, policy-makers and government leaders on how they are grappling with the challenges of governance, at the centre of which is the political economy of space and land use management.

The Executive Mayor of the City of Joburg, Cllr Parks Tau on the critical role of planners in realizing a just, sustainable and inclusive spatial visions of towns and cities. The planning function and land use management responsibilities of local government place municipalities at the centre of the effort to radically reshape and decisively transform the political economy of space in South Africa. You heard from the Executive Mayors today that Gauteng municipalities are ready for this mammoth task.

You also heard from the MEC Paul Mashatile on how we in the Gauteng City Region are responding to the progressive pressure of rapid urbanisation and the consequent unquenchable quest for housing by introducing the concept of mega human settlements. This will enable to deliver human settlements at a scale that meets the demands of rapid urban migration as well as in a manner that is socially, economically, environmentally and spatially sustainable.

The Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Minister Jeff Radebe, shared with you the stated intention of his Department to become the lead department in developing a new spatial framework for South Africa. He committed to introduce reforms in various planning frameworks including planning laws that are in line with guidance provided by the judiciary in various judgements.

The Minister of Human Settlements, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu would have indicated that there is a process of development of a new White Paper on Human Settlements will provide us with new pathways for the achievement of sustainable and inclusive human settlements.

Deputy Minister Andries Nel, spoke about South Africa's first national urban policy, namely the Integrated Urban Development Framework. The key tenets of the IUDF provides us with an overarching framework for achieving spatial justice and efficiency.

These tenets are:

- Integrated urban planning and management
- Integrated transport and mobility
- Integrated sustainable human settlements
- Integrated urban infrastructure
- Efficient land governance and management
- Inclusive economic development
- Empowered active communities
- Effective urban governance
- Sustainable finances

Given the fact that urbanisation is one of the most dominant and disruptive forces of the 21st century, urban policy and urban management have become one of the most urgent priorities of governments in the Global South.

The United Nations Population Fund has made the following observation:
“the world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history. More than half of the world’s population (currently standing at 7.3 billion) now lives in towns and cities. By 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion. History’s largest-ever wave of urbanisation will continue for many years to come. Most of this urbanization will be coming from Africa, Asia and Latin America”

People move to cities in search of opportunities and the promise offered by the urban ecosystem – cluster and concentration of firms, infrastructure, basic services, economic opportunities, labour, capital, culture, innovation. This is what in literature is referred to as the urban dividend: the benefits of agglomeration.

When the urban system is dysfunctional, poorly governed and mismanaged, it cannot offer the urban dividend. A failed urban system becomes a nightmare – a high concentration of inadequate infrastructure and basic services, informality, inequality, urban poverty, crime, drugs and all related social ills. This is the reality of most cities in Africa.

On the other hand these have enormous potential given their youthful population buzzing with energy and innovation and many are dynamic cultural and intellectual spaces which offer the prospect of sustainable livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people escaping hard life in the countryside.

Gauteng has evolved from a gold mining region into South Africa's economic hub and Africa's financial, industrial and technological nerve centre. The province is a cluster of three of South Africa's major cities – Joburg is 15% of national GDP, Tshwane 9% and Ekurhuleni 7%.

Today Gauteng contributes 35% to South Africa's GDP; 42% of SA's industrial output; 63% to SA's exports. Gauteng is the 5th biggest economy in Africa, contributing 8-10% to Africa's GDP. We contribute 40% to employment and 43% to the size of the SMME sector.

Our vision is to transform Gauteng into a seamlessly integrated, economically inclusive, socially cohesive and globally competitive City Region.

Gauteng city region is a polycentric urban conurbation that is composed of some of SA's most largest and most dynamic metros. Our City Region is a cluster of cities that occupy only 1.4% of SA's land mass. The GCR extends beyond current political boundaries of our province - to the Waterberg and Belabela in the Limpopo, to Rustenburg and Klerksdorp in North West and Sasolburg/Parys in Free State as well as Witbank and Secunda in Mpumalanga - single economy emerging. Current municipal boundaries don't make sense economically. New institutions and a new governance model required.

Over the past two years, we have reached new levels of collaboration and cooperation, the provincial government and municipalities in the Gauteng City Region, building on the efforts and initiatives of the past decade. We work as one TEAM GCR: Premier, Executive Mayors and MECs. We are bound by a common agenda and common Programme: the Programme for radical Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation of the Gauteng City Region.

The GCR has adopted a set of common programmes and plans that seek to advance a common agenda of our City Region in all key areas of governance:

1. A common spatial vision through the Gauteng Spatial Development Framework;
2. Gauteng City Region Infrastructure Master Plan;
3. Gauteng City Region Economic Development Plan;
4. Gauteng City Region Governance Roadmap;

5. Gauteng City Region Accelerated Social Transformation Strategy;
6. Gauteng City Region ICT and e-Governance Strategy;

We are also consolidating the institutions and capabilities of the entire City Region so that we can provide a coherent, accountable and responsive government to the people of our City Region. Two weeks ago, we signed an MoU to establish a single Transport Authority for the entire Gauteng City Region, a major initiative that breaks with current patterns of transport planning.

Earlier in June, we adopted the most comprehensive and far-reaching new Economic and Industrial Plan for our City Region, to place our provincial economy at the centre of Africa's new industrial revolution, the 4th industrial revolution in which technology and innovation continuously disrupt the current economic and industrial structure and social behavior.

The City of Johannesburg, the hub of finance, services, Information and Communication Technologies and pharmaceutical industries, with a significant presence of the blue economy, contributes more than 15% to the country's GDP.

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, the manufacturing hub of the Gauteng City Region and the country as well as a logistics and transport hub. It hosts Africa's busiest airport, the O.R. Tambo International Airport and the main anchor of Africa's first and only Aerotropolis, contributing more than 7% to the country's GDP.

The City of Tshwane, our nation's administrative capital and the hub of the automotive sector, research, development, innovation and the knowledge-based economy, contributes more than 10% of the GDP.

The West Rand District, was primarily a mining economy which has experienced serious decline. We are diversifying this economy, by focusing on tourism, agriculture and agro-processing, Lanseria Airport City and renewable energy industries.

At the Sedibeng District, whose economy was historically centred around the steel industry, has experienced serious decline, we are now building a new Vaal River City, and its economy will now be anchored by its tourism potential, logistics, agro-processing and urban agriculture.

Over the past two weeks, a number of surveys and reports have been released pointing to the successes of the GCR with regard to the delivery of basic services, infrastructure development and improved governance. These surveys and reports have also highlighted persistent problems of spatial injustice and economic exclusion.

On the 22nd of June, the South African Cities Network, released a report assessing the performance and the state of our cities. The Report, outlines characteristics of the kind of cities we endeavor to build as we build Gauteng into a globally competitive City Region. The report also makes an important point that Cities must now become drivers of local and national development. Accordingly the strength of our national economy depends to a large extent in what happens in our cities.

Evidently, the report further confirms that cities remain at the core of our efforts to ensure spatial transformation and the pursuit of spatial justice. And that they are centers of production, hence we must invest in building industries in townships and our Cities are not only spaces of consumption but rather spaces of production and manufacturing. That cities must be inclusive, in that they must be home to all. This requires that we build integrated communities in our cities. They must be well governed.

On the 30th of June, Statistics SA released the results of the large sample Community Survey 2016, which followed the 2015 General Household Survey earlier in the month. Both these reports demonstrate significant improvements in the most important public services that matter in the lives of residents such as water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal; education, health care, social security, housing, transport, food and telecommunications.

The Gauteng City Region Observatory is a key partnership institution between government and universities. The GCRO conducts research and surveys the quality of governance in the GCR. Fourth Quality of Life Survey, conducted every two years since 2009 and which provides valuable data on a wide range of indicators, including access to services as well as citizen satisfaction and attitudes.

This research is invaluable because it provides objective evidence and insights into people's quality of life and attitudes. It enables us as government to assess socio-economic trends and our own performance in improving citizens' lives and to adjust our policy interventions to improve results going forward.

While the Gauteng City-Region (GCR) inevitably continues to bear post-apartheid scars and continues to be buffeted by massive in-migration, quality of life is improving in multiple areas, giving effect to the progressive realisation of constitutional rights.

Importantly, the people of the city-region emerge as increasingly tolerant, more trusting across races, less hostile to foreigners, and with high levels of both 'happiness' (87%) and 'life satisfaction' (88%).

The research reports further confirms that the Gauteng City Region continues to face massive demographic pressure. Such that today we have more than 5 million households – one third of all households in South Africa. Its population has increased from 12,3 million to 13,4 million between 2011 and 2016.

More than 1,1 million people have moved into Gauteng over the past five years, suggesting that more than 200 000 people move into our province every year.

All these surveys point to inescapable conclusion that the Gauteng City evolving into a centre of governance excellence with regard to building a future that is more inclusive and sustainable in social, economic, spatial and ecological terms.

Unplanned urbanization and urban growth poses a serious challenge because it leads to slums and urban sprawl. The legacy of apartheid spatial, social and economic exclusion remains stubborn and we are determined to radically disrupt these patterns through better GCR-wide planning and coordination.

The GCR's new Spatial Development Framework argues that the fragmented spatial form of the city-region bequeathed by apartheid cannot be remedied by a simple core-periphery dichotomy bound by an urban boundary. Instead, we argue that spatial integration of the GCR be addressed by a polycentric approach that recognizes the urban core and secondary towns and nodes.

It is clear that both the core and secondary nodes need to be further densified and that they require dynamic interaction. We are also mindful of protecting our agricultural land and sensitive environmental areas.

On other hand, the GCR Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan directs the focus and attention of all spheres of government in the GCR to invest in energy and water security, transport, ICT infrastructure

roll out and social infrastructure. The plan, if fully implemented, will cost in the order of R1.3 trillion over the 14 years.

Ladies and gentlemen, you can see that we have an ambitious agenda which is being promoted vigorously by our provincial government and city leaders to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and seamlessly integrated Gauteng City Region. We have working closely all national government departments to ensure that they harmonize their plans to fit the governance model and support the development strategies of the GCR approach.

In this context, our want to conclude by leaving the Institute with four issues that warrant the attention as you grow and mutate in the next decade:

Firstly, planners need to help translate the GCR vision and Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation Programme into a set of coherent and integrated plans at all scales: national, provincial, local and precinct levels. In this case, we want planners to ensure that our spatial, social, environmental and economic goals are achieved.

Secondly, planners need to help provide the state-of-the-art research - data and evidence - the new developments and best practices across the world, especially the developing Global South, in disrupting exclusionary spaces of privilege and in building inclusive, sustainable and equitable urban ecosystems. This will ensure that our plans are based on concrete conditions and reflect the actual context.

Thirdly, planners are implementers. There is a need to invest in the capabilities of planning departments and divisions in all spheres of government so that they play a central role in the development of sound and adaptable plans and in their implementation. Planners can help in translating the development objectives into implementable plans and assist in connecting communities to our development programmes.

Lastly, planners are not neutral people whose exercise their expertise without values and aspirations. You need to consciously and deliberate cultivate an orientation and outlook among all your members that planning is a highly contested discourse between the privileged who want to preserve space and landed property for their themselves and the marginalized want to be included. Planners are subversive disruptors of spaces of privilege in favour of creating zones of prosperity and opportunity for all in our city regions, cities and towns. You should be activists for an inclusive, sustainable and equitable planning paradigm.

I therefore call on to take sides in the global struggle for inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable towns, cities and city regions. In this regard, planning is not just a technocratic exercise of putting together plans based on data and evidence. It involves value judgment and choices of how spaces and resources are utilized to either reinforce or disrupt historically established patterns of landed property, access to opportunities and lifestyles among specific groups that maybe privileged while others are excluded.

From the standpoint of progressive policy-making and governance, planning must always be informed by a vision and a set of values that promote equality among human beings, unity in diversity, equity, sustainability and inclusion.

For, what is the value of any plan if it reinforces patterns of social, economic and spatial exclusion of the poor? Put differently, what is the value of the planners if they reproduce rather disrupt social, economic, ecological and spatial injustices, inequities and inefficiencies and help to anticipate and create a future that is more inclusive and sustainable?

I further urge the South African Planning Institute to take keen interest in and provide strategic support to the developments in the Gauteng City Region and all other African urban conurbations that are redefining the future of Africa.

Thank you and best wishes!