

**WELCOME REMARKS BY GAUTENG PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA,
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE INVEST IN NAMIBIA INTERNATIONAL
INVESTMENT CONFERENCE. EMPERORS PALACE, EKURHULENI.**

06 October 2016

Programme Director

His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia;

Minister in the Presidency in the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Jeff Radebe;

Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Calle Schlettwein;

Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Esteemed members of the delegation from our sister country, Namibia

Mr Ernest Mahlaule the President of Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

Mr Tarah Shaanika the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

Captains of Industry and Commerce in our two sister countries;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the provincial government and the people of Gauteng, I extend a warm welcome to President Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and members of his esteemed government and business delegation to the Gauteng City Region.

Your Excellency, Mr President, the sister peoples of South Africa and Namibia have a long shared history suffering and struggling together in the common quest to determine their own destiny and realise their dreams of freedom, peace and prosperity.

South Africa and Namibia were colonized and oppressed by the same racist apartheid regime. Our mutual leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Toivo Ja Toivo spent many years of incarceration together on Robben Island. In exile, President Oliver Tambo and President Sam Nujoma and many cadres of the ANC and SWAPO shared the trenches and successfully led the struggle to final victory. The peoples of Namibia and South Africa have deep affection for each other. We love Namibia.

Today we meet as at this Investment Conference as free people to exchange ideas and encourage trade and investment between our two sister countries. As Gauteng, we are delighted to be the host of this Investment Conference in order to deepen mutually beneficial economic relations between South Africa and Namibia, as well as Windhoek and the Gauteng City Region.

The Gauteng City Region is the economic hub and industrial heartland of South Africa, contributing 34.6% to SA's GDP; 42% to total national industrial output, 41% to national employment and 63% to national exports. The manufacturing and services sectors of the Gauteng economy are driving of Sub-Saharan Africa's industrialisation, trade and economic integration at a much faster pace than political and diplomatic relations can cope with.

The binational agreements between our national governments create huge opportunities for business-to-business partnerships as well as collaboration between sister cities and regional governments.

Last month I had the opportunity to host High Commissioner Ngiwete, the High Commissioner to discuss how we can turn the binational agreement into something meaningful and practical at sub-national and city level. National governments deal with national agreements that pave the way for meaningful collaboration at sub-national and firm level and further focuses on mega infrastructure projects that facilitate economic integration, industrialisation and intra-Africa trade.

However, we need greater involvement of cities, municipalities and regional governments because that is where firms are located. I am saying that we, the middle and small governments, must play our full role in driving the implementation of the AU's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, we have adopted a new provincial economic development plan which seeks to give practical effect to our country's National Development Plan. Our provincial plan places major emphasis on, among others, integrating strategic industries, sectors and firms within the Gauteng economy into the major value and supply chains, especially in SADC.

In the plan we also focus on skills development, as an enabler for inclusive growth. Working with institutions of higher learning and our research institutes we will contribute towards strengthening our continent's skills base. We know too well that it will take something of the magnitude of a skills revolution to unleash the full development potential of our continent. As Gauteng we stand ready to make our contribution in this regard.

Let me conclude by focusing on the turmoil in the global economy. This Conference takes place in a time of huge uncertainty, coupled with a bleak outlook for the global economy. Major economies of the world are facing enormous difficulties. Despite this, economies of our continent have remained resilient, offering hope that Africa is still rising; that ours remains the Continent of growth; a continent of the future.

According to the 15th edition of the African Economic Outlook Report 2016; *"Africa's economic growth remained resilient in 2015 amid a weak global economy, lower commodity prices and adverse weather conditions in some parts of the continent. Real GDP grew by an average*

of 3.6% in 2015, higher than the global average growth of 3.1% and more than double that of the Euro area. At this growth rate, Africa remained the second fastest growing economy in the world (after emerging Asia), and several African countries were among the world's fastest growing countries.”

The report forecasts that Africa's economic growth will gradually pick up during 2016/17, predicated on a recovery in the world economy and a gradual rise in commodity prices.

As Africans, we must continue to seize the opportunities and work together at every level of government and refuse steadfastly to let the sun set on this being Africa's Century. We can all do something wherever we are located to make Africa's Rise more sustainable and meaningful for its one billion people through inclusive growth.

The Gauteng provincial government is ready to play its full collaborative role under the guidance of our national cabinet. We are open for business. Our businesses and firms have the capabilities and the resources to contribute to the industrialisation of Namibia, SADC and the continent.

I wish you a successful conference.

Thank you.