

MDM meets with the private sector as it moves closer to DDM launch



The Mopani District Municipality hosted a consultative session with the private sector at Karibu Leisure Resort on Thursday last week as it mobilizes support for the new district development model to be launched on the 16th of April.

The Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi told the business community that the Municipality has done much consultation with the other spheres of government, but needed the private sector to come on board. "Our efforts to ground the DDM continues with this buying-in from the private sector which is very important.



"We have done our internal work as government, and it's important that we bring to this space the private sector because the socio-economic profiling of the district should be constituted also by programmes and projects from the private sector for maximum impact across the district."

He said that the private sector had a role to play in influencing infrastructure development in the district. "This is a platform to influence government spending. We need to pull all budgets from other spheres of government into the district. This gives us an opportunity to advance the efforts to localize empowerment so that the money meant for the people of Mopani circulate in this district, and impact positively on the lives of our people."



The Executive Mayor said that the DDM presents an opportunity for the establishment of a special economic zone on agriculture. "If our competitive advantage is mining and agriculture, and our neighbouring district is Vhembe which predominantly agriculture, there is nothing stopping us from exploring for a special economic zone on agriculture between the two districts.



"Through our joint efforts, we will be able to move the informal economy which is led largely by the black majority from the periphery to the centre, from the margins to the core of the economy. This is only possible if we integrate our plans and work as a collective. It is only through our collective actions and pulling of resources in the same direction that we will be able to significantly alter the socio-economic conditions of our people."

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