



Bojanala Platinum District Municipality

BOJANALA

Platinum District Municipality

YOUTH

Rustenburg – Youths from all walks of life converged at the Rustenburg Kloof from 19 to 21 November to take part in the 2011 Bojanala Platinum District Youth Summit. The summit was also attended by the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Louis Diremelo, the MMC for Special Projects, Cllr V Tlhapi and the MMC for IDP, PMS and Public Participation, Cllr Philemon Khunou amongst others. The primary purpose of the youth summit was to create a document outlining the District's position that would be presented to the Provincial Youth Summit.

For three days, young people discussed various issues affecting them such as youth empowerment, education, unemployment and entrepreneurship opportunities in order to secure a united position that would help them to improve their position within the society

as young people. The highlight of the summit saw the youth being divided into four commissions so that they could discuss specific issues before reporting back their deliberations before a plenary. The youth discussed Economic Participation and Youth Work, Education And Skills Development, Social Cohesion and National Youth Service, Sports And Recreation and Health and Wellbeing. Among some of the concerns that were raised by the youth include a lack of job and business opportunities within the District.

The youths noted that the District Municipality should play a more effective role in making sure that educational institutions that were operating illegally in the area be closed down.

“Economic Freedom in our Lifetime”



EMPOWERMENT
YOUTH



Cllr. Louis Diremelo, Mayor of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality



Youth Living With Disability



Cllr V. Tlhapi, MMC Gender, HIV/ AIDS, Youth & Disability

Mining companies within the District were also urged to play a more active role by committing some of their profits towards the funding of developmental projects in and around the communities that they operate within. Many speakers also called for local companies to give first preference to Bojanala residents when they make appointments.

People living with disabilities called on the District Municipality to provide interpreters that are competent in sign language. Addressing the summit just before it closed, Cllr Diremelo encouraged the youths to keenly participate

in such events so that they would benefit. “We have to take note of where we are going with these summits. We have had a lot of these summits and it is time to ask exactly which direction we are taking,” said Cllr Diremelo.

He acknowledged that the District Municipality needed to do more in order to make sure that young people are also included in the economic activities of the District. He said: “As a municipality, we must ensure that 10% of the tenders that are awarded should go to young people. If this is not the case then we

are not going to win. The young people must also participate in the economy. “We produce a lot of platinum in our area but it is exported to Sweden and comes back in the form of vehicles, which we have to buy.

How do young people benefit from this? “Oliver Tambo once said that a country that does not care about its young people has no future. Young people should be included in the IDP programme because this is the most influential programme within the Municipality.”

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