

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR MINISTER ZULU AT THE NATIONAL SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT COLLOQUOUM
THURSDAY, 01 DECEMBER 2021**

Programme Director; Mr Pule Mokwena,
Small Business Institute (SBDI) Managing Director: Mr Xolani Qubeka our
partner this morning,
Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Deputy Minister
Holomisa,
Chairperson of the IDC Ms Busisiwe Mabuza
Gauteng MEC for Economic Development, MEC Parks Tau (who I'm told
will join us later)
The CEO of W&RSETA, Mr Tom Mkhwanazi,
Representatives from the Department of Social Development Portfolio, in
attendance led by the Acting Director-General Mr Linton Mchunu;
Representatives from Business, NEDLAC and Civil Society,
I want to recognize Mr Thulani Tshefutha from the NEDLAC Community
Constituency of NEDLAC,
Group Chairperson of GBSH Consult Group, Prof Tal Edgars,
All distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.
Good morning! Dumelang! Sanibonani!

I want to congratulate you Mr Xolani and the team from SBDI for putting
together this important engagement.

Today marks the beginning of one of the most important period in our
Departments collaboration with business sector particularly in the midst of
Covid-19 pandemic. This engagement is part of our drive to strengthen
our partnership as Government with business and Civil Society

organisations towards the transformation of the socio-economic situation of our citizens. This therefore speaks to the President's call for deepened our relations between all sectors of society to improve the socio-economic development in our country.

As Government, we are certainly pleased that we have strategic partners in our society, and this is in line with our approach of always being a consultative Government and being able to work together to do more working with all sectors of our society.

According to the Canadian Brundzwick definition of Social Development which I fully subscribe to – Social Development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society, so they can reach their full potential. The success of the society is intrinsically linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. This is a powerful statement which resonated with the inputs made by Xolani in his introduction remarks that it is about the people - and more so about the well-being of people – this is what should drive us as leaders in Government, in Civil Society and indeed in the Government. It is therefore our collective responsibility to improve the wellbeing of every individual in this country as this is linked to the development of our country

You would be aware from the recent quarterly labour survey released by the Statistician General earlier this week – highlighted yet another increase in the unemployment rate rose to 34.9% in the third quarter of 2021 – up from the 34.4% in the previous period. There is no doubt that COVID-19 has forced this unemployment rate higher which means that we have to work much harder to create more jobs especially for the young people – and again we have to together I doing this – Government, Civil

Society and business – but of course much more is expected of business in this regard.

The President has been consistent in this all and we have a solid plan through the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan which calls on all of us to ensure that play as active role in economic development and more so in the creation of jobs.

The call for the partnership with the Civil Society Organizations, and Private Sector is premised on the understanding that Government alone cannot address the challenges we face, and thus it is each citizen's responsibility to take charge and play an active role in ensuring that our people are capacitated for better life.

In South Africa, the private and civil society sector have always taken keen interest on matter that affect the welfare and well-being of the Nation. At the height of the apartheid regime, civil society sector became an organizing and mobilizing factor across various groups. This partnership initiative sets a very important foundation for strengthening the relationship between Government, private and civil society.

As the pressure to deliver on services increase and the challenges that face Government equally amount, there is a need for working together with variety of sectors of society. Through meaningful partnerships, all stakeholders can accelerate learning, distribute skills, knowledge and ensure that our youth and women are empowered and find meaningful development paths in society.

The Department of Social Development and its associated portfolio constituting of entities and statutory bodies warmly welcome the staging of this important colloquium led by the Small Business Development Institute (SBDI). The Colloquium's major objectives which is to drive communities and individual towards self-development and self-sufficiency fits directly with the mandate of the Department of Social Development and forms part of the bedrock for socio-economic transformation, development and economic growth, which are at the epicenter of the Social Development growth paradigm.

This initiative comes at the time when our country is searching deeply for pragmatic solutions to a myriad of social challenges that affect our communities in particular, children, youth and women. The colloquium will certainly provide a much-needed platform for dialogue between the department, social partners, sister department and other government agencies on this important subject of social entrepreneurship and its potential contribution to the broader community.

I am please to inform you that the Department of Social Development is committed to working with the SBDI in driving the envisaged outcome for the colloquium in particular the need to craft a comprehensive and formidable Social Entrepreneurship Development Master Plan that will shape policy, programme design and promote co-creation of practical solutions that enable social enterprises, Non-Governmental Organisation (NG)'s) and sustainable agents in the economic development of township and rural economies.

Social Enterprises, NGO's and CBOs have an integral role to play in driving local socio-economic development as social impact partners amid

unemployment and abject poverty. In this regard, the Government has identified food security and sovereignty as major intervening levers that can create unprecedented employment opportunities and foster healthy livelihoods and nutritious communities, as well as increasing household incomes, underpinned by self-development and self-reliance.

The imperative to drive innovation ideas is often the preserve of a chosen few. This inclusive platform is indeed an epoch-making discourse as it presents a unique opportunity to garner the combined and committed intellect of South Africans and partners from elsewhere in the world.

I firmly believe that the colloquium will provide clarity on the role of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), Social Entrepreneur in bringing innovative solutions to social development challenges in both rural and township communities. Rural and township communities should reclaim their roles in driving the developing the new Post-COVID-19 economic development of their respective territory and their inhabitants, in other words, the new dawn wouldn't dawn unless the communities are at its center.

In conclusion, we need to ensure that we create skills for the economy that will ensure that we have the right people to take our economy further. We need to ensure that we promote a culture of entrepreneurship and start-ups especially social entrepreneurship so we have more opportunities for young people – so we can support this work wholly as the DSD Portfolio and we look forward to working with all sectors of society to drive our growth agenda as a country and hope that we will have another colloquium next year to take stock so we can upscale our support in this regard. I THANK YOU