



WELCOME ADDRESS

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR
CITY OF TSHWANE**

5TH GREEN YOUTH INDABA

**28 JUNE 2018
INNOVATION HUB**



Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen good morning – It is an absolute honour to welcome you all the 5th Annual Youth and Green Indaba. Due to the Council Meeting taking place now on the other side of the City, neither the Executive Mayor nor any of the Political Principals could grace this prestigious event and thus I was assigned to fill in the massive yet honorable task of rendering a very warm welcome to the City of Tshwane, our beautiful Capital of the Republic of South Africa.

One of the thought leaders once said, **no-one is perfect but if you are born in June, you are pretty much close.** As we are wrapping up the month of June which is nationally celebrated as the Youth Month and globally celebrated as Environment Month, this Indaba is well positioned to address both youth and Sustainability issues as they topical subjects that are very close to the Executive Mayor and by extension to the City of Tshwane.

Allow me to first congratulate the Green Youth Network and Tosaca Media Group together with all the partners and sponsors who have been working very hard in ensuring that this indaba doesn't only grow from strength to strength but also stay relevant in tackling challenges faced by our youth today and this is entrenched in this year's theme: **“Young people creating tomorrow today through climate innovations and skills development, to live the legacy towards a socio-economically empowered youth”.**

The transition to a green economy will require the adoption of a new economic model and a different approach to development. Cities that seek to take a developmental approach to service delivery and address job creation and the economy need to work closely with business and civil society, since the success of a developmental state depends on active community involvement and establishing viable public-private partnerships.

Being the hub of innovation and research, endowed with some of the best prestigious tertiary institutions in the land, the second largest number of diplomatic missions after Washington, the City of Tshwane is rightfully at the at the forefront of this transition by driving the climate change response, stimulating the green economy as well as incorporating defined social and environmental criteria and indicators with municipal planning and decision-making.

The City has demonstrated commitment to embrace sustainability with robust policy signals and regulatory drivers that underline the facilitation of green investment and enhance the transition to a green economy.

The mitigation actions include: reducing emissions from buildings, improving mobility and providing low-carbon mass transport options; reducing the generation of waste and encouraging product re-use, recycling and material recovery; promoting integrated planning and land use; improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy supply options; and encouraging the efficient use and management of water and other natural resources.

The adaptation actions include: mainstreaming environmental priorities and carrying out biodiversity assessments to inform development plans; supporting and expanding government public works programmes to incorporate payment for an ecosystem services approach, enhancing the skills and knowledge in agro-ecology, enhancing local urban and peri-urban food production for increased food security; and providing services and facilities that enable a safe and healthy environment while enhancing opportunities for improved connectivity and social cohesion and human wellbeing.

We have just emerged from our annual **African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum (ACCSF)** held across the street at the CSIR International Convention Centre where Mayors and representatives from 35 African Cities, mainly Capital Cities converged in the City. This summit of Mayors of African Capital Cities entrench the duty of Capital Cities to lead and position their cities as national flagships for sustainability and in ways that unite, enable and inspire the other cities within their countries on the collective journey towards a sustainable future for all. It further serves as a platform to share our collective success by the measures of sustainable development, within the full context of the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **New Urban Agenda** and as key role players in achieving 'The Africa We Want' as embodied by **Agenda 2063**. Leading to the ACCSF, our Research and Innovation Unit in the City was running numerous **Bootcamps** that culminated in the **Youth Innovation Challenge** which was highly recognized as one of the critical instruments to empower the youth to be not only active participants but custodians the AGENDA 2063.

The active involvement and participation of youth in research, innovation and the application of appropriate technology in spatial planning, the built environment, sustainable waste management, cleaner energy and mobility are fundamental to the attainment of a just and equitable society. The building of social capital and ensuring a healthy, educated and skilled workforce will create

sustainable communities that contribute to the resilience and long-term sustainability of the city.

It is very encouraging to note the diverse range of stakeholders that will be participating in the indaba for the next two days, and as the City we recognize the need that to increase the scope and diversity of partnerships.

Partnerships are particularly important as mechanisms to help address market failures or failures in governance where neither the market nor government is able, on its own, to deliver public goods or meet crucial social and environmental challenges.

This is a fundamental reason why as the Office of the Executive Mayor, we have resolved to support the 5th Green Youth Indaba and are indeed looking forward greater collaboration in the future.

To all visitors, please make an effort to enjoy our city with all its beautiful sights and rich heritage and vibrant townships.

I THANK YOU