

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE ACTING MAYOR,  
CLLR N. GARANE DURING THE INFORMAL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2019.**

Programme Director

Honourable Deputy Minister

Distinguished Guests

Municipal Officials

Officials from all Sector departments

All present stakeholders

Present Media Houses

Residents and Community at Large

I greet you all in the name of Service Delivery kulomasipala waseMzimvubu, Amen.

I am delighted to be afforded this important opportunity to welcome you all to this development programme. My sentiments are that, we are here to witness the role of small businesses and how the department's programmes can advance the growth and sustainability of small businesses.

At the outset, let me state that the vision of Umzimvubu Local Municipality is to create a platform for a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship and enterprise growth, where small businesses and cooperatives act as drivers of job creation and inclusive economic growth.

Since the establishment of the informal and micro enterprise development programme more young entrepreneurs have emerged while others have shown large interest in being beneficiaries of this programme. Umzimvubu Local Municipality is fortunate enough to be one of the few beneficiaries of the programme due to the rural nature of the municipality.

As we commemorate disability month, it is also an opportunity to reflect on progress we have made in addressing the challenges faced by persons living with disabilities as we commemorate 25 years of democracy. We've created platforms for them to advocate for their interests and there are projects which they are implementing for the betterment of their lives though municipal

assistance (and other programmes that sector departments are doing with them).

Government is encouraged that we have made significant progress in realising the political and socio-economic rights of persons with disabilities as entrenched in the Bill of Rights as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons living with Disabilities (CRPD).

It's with this reason that we welcome the inclusive strategy by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) to target entrepreneurs in the informal economy and place more focus mainly on special groups; women, youth and people living with disabilities.

Honourable Deputy Minister, your presence is welcomed and I trust we'll exert a lot from today's session in order to further grow our local economy.

With those few words, You are all welcome.

**I THANK YOU!!!!**