

Siemens Customer Event

14 November 2011

Speech by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Clr Mpho Parks Tau, on the occasion of the Siemens Customer Event, Turbine Hall, Newtown – Johannesburg

Programme Director
Honourable Ministers
Honourable Premier
National Parliament Chief Whip
Siemens President
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

PROGRAMME Director, in less than two weeks, South Africa will host the Conference of the Parties 17th Session Climate change. As Local Government, we have to confront the reality of climate change and the impact this has on the communities we serve. The impact on us as Johannesburg is evident with the rising temperature. Projections are that our City and the Region will also experience not only an increase in the rainy season, but also higher levels of intensity. We join those in the world who call on how as a generation, we are going to respond to the reality of climate change and the overall sustainable development Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the City of Johannesburg is honoured and pleased to notice that Johannesburg ranks above average overall in the Siemens African Green City Index. We welcome the compilation of the Index because it gives us an opportunity to bench mark ourselves with other cities in the world.

Joburg was proud and honoured to be the host of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Since then we have moved from Agenda 21 agreed on in Rio, to action and implementation. We developed our Climate Change Strategy in 2002. Joburg is a member of ICLEI and C40 Large Cities Climate Leader Group.

During the Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy Outreach Process, we also identified problems of Climate Change, and we said to build Joburg of 2040, we will need to be a resilient City, we need to have capacity to respond to future Climate Change and we also need a plan and respond to uncertainties.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Joburg 2040 GDS is based on a paradigm that realises the many needs of the city ranging from Resource Sustainability, environment and services, human and social development, governance and economic growth.

The GDS seeks to ease the tension between these needs by looking at this as providing opportunities for change innovation and the introduction of new ways of managing complexity and uncertainty.

Several flagship projects are underway at the City of Joburg and some are captured in the Green Index Report that will be launched tomorrow.

Just to mention a few, we have a Climate Proofing project that goes beyond energy issues and incorporate an ecological component. We have also launched the biggest project on

landfill gas to energy project. We are also in the process of transforming our transport sector to improve air quality in the City.

This occasion is impeccable in that the Joburg 2040 GDS recognises the importance of local government, private sector, civil society and communities to work together in addressing and enhancing the resilience and the adaptive capacity of the City.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued interest in our City.

Thank you