

**OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
TLOKWE MUNICIPALITY, CLR MAPHETLE AT THE PRESENTATION OF
THE ICT JIPSA HELD AT THE VUSELELA COLLEGE**

September 11, 2008

Programme Director,

Esteemed guests

All protocol observed

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be accorded the opportunity to address this important gathering today. I specifically refer to the gathering as important because nobody can deny ICT plays a critical role as a career today and will continue to do so well into the future as the world becomes a global village.

In this regard two factors particularly underpin ICT skills development in our country, i.e. the need to build digital literacy as well as to promote the global competitiveness of the South African ICT industry.

Programme Director, it clear to everyone that in order to achieve these objectives we will need commitment to put into practice and focus the Government call of public private partnerships as espoused in the JIPSA.

I believe the challenges we are facing in the ICT sector may be immense and urgent, but they are not insurmountable. They require us to avoid the pitfall of designing and crafting grand utopian wish lists and plans, but rather identify and implement a set of carefully balanced and prioritized interventions that are practical, affordable and achievable.

I believe the ICT JIPSA update progress report as well as the launch of the public private partnership between the Department of Communication Isett SETA, Telkom, and the FET's in the North West Province will provide a firm basis on which to begin to concretely and constructively address all these ICT related challenges.

It has been long recognized that Government alone cannot deliver. Beyond anything that Government does, what is crucially necessary for the strategies to succeed is the conscious and responsible participation of all role players and stake-holder.

Programme Director, I won't take up a lot of time by going down to the level of micro-detail on the challenges and possible solutions to address these, this is what this gathering is in any event designed to address and try to resolve.

I therefore hereby take this opportunity to welcome you all to our beautiful city and this centre of education.

I wish you all fruitful and enriching deliberations. I am certain that the collective wisdom that is gathered here will deliver a product we all shall be proud of. Together, let us make it happen.

I thank you all.