

ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT

Welcoming Notes

Mr Premier
Executive Mayors and Councillors
DPLG Representatives
DG
HOD
MM's and all other Officials
Civil Society Leadership, SALGA
Our Partners – KPMG, SIU
Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and Gentlemen, we had a challenging year in many respects.

This is certainly our last gathering of the year and a very important one indeed. The convening of this summit is our confirmed commitment for good governance in the province.

A key platform of the National Programme of Action is the implementation of anti-corruption strategies in government. The Department for Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) together with my department assisted the 7 pilot municipalities to evaluate their procurement, housing and appointment policies, with a view to making them less vulnerable fro corruption.

Another initiative that complements the anti-corruption drive, is the contract that my department has with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU). The investigative capacity so acquired, assists me and my department in fulfilling its constitutional obligation to monitor and support municipalities.

These investigations are conducted in the spirit of co-operative governance.

Example of the most recent success:

In the case of the projects Twins and Chicago Bulls the accused developer Mr Yasseem KcKenzie was on 9 November 2006 found guilty of fraud in the Magistrates Court of the Cape.

He has been sentenced to 6 months correctional supervision in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 plus 3 years imprisonment suspended in its entirety for a period of 5 years on condition that he is not again convicted of fraud or theft committed during the period of suspension.

The accused has pleaded guilty to the charge and agreed to refund the benefit received of R292 236 and has been ordered to pay an amount of R292 236 by way of a confiscation order (R242 236 to be paid within 5 days of the order and the remaining R50 000 to the State Attorney before or on 31 March 2007).

I said in my budget speech that this province will persist in laying bare and rooting out corruption and maladministration where it occurs. It increases the awareness of councillors and municipal officials of their respective roles and accountability (legal and moral) to the communities they serve.

I am making use of this opportunity to launch the Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy (LGACS) in the Western Cape Province.

All attendees have in their information packs a copy of this strategy.

The strategy focuses on internal controls, employees and councillors, other stakeholders such as the community and trading partners. The strategy provides practical guidance.

This summit must certainly help us go beyond dealing with symptoms.