Honourable Deputy Minister,

Executive Mayors of Local Municipalities

Members of Mayoral Committees

Esteemded Guests

Programme Director

Allow me to extend a warm welcome to Deputy Minister of Trade and Industries Hon. Fikile Slovo Majola, as well as esteemed guests that have taken the time to attend this event.

It has been long awaited for such a programme to come to the Sedibeng Region, in particular the Evaton area which has a formidable history in the struggle for unity and equality amongst all South Africans.

However the community of this area has been embattled with poverty due to a high unemployment rate and a lack of sufficient economic activity, to inject revenue to entrepreneurs in the area.

It gives pleasure to know that the Department of Trade and Industries has heeded the call to fulfil the needs to the Evaton community.

I would like to highlight as well that integrated government initiatives such as these, are essential towards the Gauteng city region’s programme to alleviate poverty and unemployment, and to implement a lasting developmental relationship towards the Sedibeng community and government.

This outreach programme will create better opportunities for young entrepreneurs within the area, bring awareness of various business incubation services and open doors the broader spectrum of business acumen to the Evaton community.

Sedibeng will work towards implementing and re-enforcing intergovernmental relations with all relevant departments, to ensure that the dream of a well functioning Vaal River City economy.

In advance I would like acknowledge the DTI for the internship programmes that have already begun in collaboration with local government departments such department of health and local municipalities.

Deputy Minister, I would like to highlight the grievous issue of the recent spate of Gender Based Violence and general violence, the women in this region need to be educated in empowering themselves through economic independence. The Sedibeng District Municipality extends an invitation to all residents for support and participation in the coming Gender Based Violence march that will take place in Sebokeng, by the local government and political leadership of the region.

In conclusion, I therefore urge the youth to use these services to your fullest ability, learn, invest your minds and dare to dream use these skills to better your lives. It is your hands.

I leave your with the words of Mark Twain “***The secret to getting ahead, is getting started***.