

**Speech of the Mayor of Kopanong on the Development Week held at  
Letsemeng Municipality on the 08/09/2011**

**Programme director**

**Premier of the Free State**

**Minister and deputy Minister present.**

**Mec present**

**The Mayor of Letsemeng Municipality Me; Thandi Reachable**

**Councillors Present**

**The Chief Executive Officer of the IDT, Ms Thembi Nwedamutswu**

**Letsemeng Municipal Manager**

**Officials from different sectors**

**And All other Stakeholders who are here**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Die gemeenskap van Letsemeng**

**Programme Director**

My name is Xolile ka Matwa Mayor of Kopanong Local Municipality. It is the great honour to be part of this 4<sup>th</sup> annual Development Week. I'm here on behalf of our Executive Mayor who can't make it to this important occasion due to other work related matters. I hope his apology will be accepted by communities of Letsemeng.

Today we mark our first day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Development Week. Under the theme "Exploring Experiences, Models & New Possibilities: Learning and Innovating towards Sustainable Communities"

We thank the IDT for bringing this development week in the Free State particular in Koffiefontein, which is one among many towns in our country where poverty continues to ravage our people.

**Programme Director :**

I welcome everyone present today and I hope everyone will participate and exchange ideas and share lessons learned.

**Civil society:**

I hope that when we return to our homes, we take with us more knowledge about IDT, so that we can make a positive impact in

Former towns: Bethulie, Edenburg, Fauresmith, Gariepdam, Jagersfontein, Philippolis  
Reddersburg, Springfontein, Trompsburg

our communities and the generations that would follow.

Importantly, we welcome the space of debate on this matter because engagements from various perspective will help us responding comprehensively to the challenge of poverty.

I thank you