



KEY NOTE ADDRESS

**CLLR SOLLY MSIMANGA
EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF TSHWANE**

AFRICAN CAPITAL CITIES SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

**13 JUNE 2017
CSIR CONVENTION CENTRE**



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation in the Republic of South Africa,
Honourable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, **Honourable Pravin Gordhan**

President of United Cities and Local Government and President of the South African
Local Government Association, **Cllr Parks Tau**

Principal Programme Officer for Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade, New
Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, **Dr Towela Nyirenda-Jere**

Regional Director, ICLEI Africa, **Ms Kobie Brand**

Regional Director for Africa, C40 Climate Leadership Group, **Mr Hastings Chikoko**

CEO of the South African Local Government Association, **Mr Xolile George**

Fellow Excellencies, Mayors of African capital cities

Fellow Mayors of South African local government

Leadership of the South African Local Government Association

Dignitaries and Senior Officials from within the region and abroad

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to express a special welcome and appreciation to everyone here, particularly fellow mayors from as many as 25 African capital cities, for taking the time to travel to South Africa to participate in the 2017 African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum.

This year, the focus is on sustainability leadership and how African capital cities are leading the way.

The City of Tshwane's sustainability journey is anchored in a profound political commitment to elevate sustainability at both a policy and institutional level.

We have taken a conscious decision to transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient city, and are exploring sustainable and alternative options of providing services, thereby ensuring value for money through our ambitious sustainability drive.

Global warming, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience are further "new" problems facing our societies which, despite being amongst the least culprits in the world, are possibly feeling the negative impacts in the strongest way.

This forum therefore seeks to establish commonalities and challenges faced by major cities in Africa while showcasing and sharing successful initiatives towards the emergence of truly African, original and appropriate answers in addressing the sustainability imperative at the urban scale.

Today's gathering offers us a great opportunity to contribute to global efforts towards reducing the impacts of climate change through the exploration of new and innovative approaches.

As mayor of a developing city committed to sustainable economic development, I am pleased to see increasingly diverse attendance and participation, which provides more opportunities for us to share similar challenges and collaborate on solutions.

I am humbled and excited to be the host and form part of this august gathering, and I look forward to tapping into this rich knowledge base while also adding the unique elements that are entrenched in the city of Tshwane as a capital city of excellence.

Honourable Members, Your Excellencies,

As a leading African city, Tshwane has already embarked on the journey towards a sustainable future, with projects such as Bio2Watt, an example of private-sector collaboration with BMW as the off-taker for biogas-derived energy, and a Bus Rapid Transit system that includes compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, among others.

Tshwane is already leading in the green building space with the most certified green buildings in South Africa. A good example is the recently occupied Tshwane House, the City of Tshwane's new R2 billion headquarters and a five-star graded green building.

Programme Director,

Climate change is already affecting millions of people around the globe through extreme and unseasonal weather events. These impacts are likely to have a disproportionately greater impact on developing countries, particularly African countries, who have limited resources and infrastructure to adequately protect themselves from these impacts, and insufficient means to recover.

Local governments in particular are most at risk because climate impacts are felt at a local level. It is at the local level where livelihoods are lost, water security and food security are impacted, and where infrastructure is destroyed. Whilst local governments will suffer the full impacts of climate change, they are also most equipped to take rapid action now and prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

At the end of a series of intensive and insightful deliberations, the City of Tshwane adopted the Tshwane Declaration 2016, which, amongst other imperatives, noted that:

- We will establish a collective think tank of common initiatives that we will present at COP22 being hosted by the City of Marrakesh in December 2016.
- We undertake to measure our city's carbon emissions and establish a baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in each city.
- We will jointly engage with development agencies and other international partners that focus on and have an interest in local government to garner support for climate-resilience programmes.
- We will convene a platform conducive for technical engagements and develop a clear implementation programme for our cities, focusing primarily on the sustainable development goals by making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we engage today and in the next couple of days, numerous local government-specific elements need to be considered for us to secure a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient future for cities.

These elements and issues are the following:

Food security

The developmental challenges posed by food security are already evident. How do we address energy security without impacting further on our food or water resources?

Youth and the green economy

What does the green economy have to offer young people in terms of careers? What are the most dynamic sectors of the green economy?

Tourism

How do we ensure a long-term future for African tourism based on partnership and community benefit? We need to unify this industry so that we can reap the rewards in years to come rather than decimate our natural resources and habitats for short-term gain.

Manufacturing

The industry is faced with the challenge of finding more water and energy-efficient means of production as well as consumers' demands of sustainably developed products.

Infrastructure

Cities are faced with the huge challenge of providing infrastructure that meets the needs of a rising urban population with limited public resources. Are we able to build sustainable infrastructure that will shape tomorrow's communities?

Transport and mobility

Despite increased investment in mass transport, do we have sustainable strategies to combat air pollution in Africa? In the interest of creating sustainable transport and improving mobility for citizens, we have a comprehensive and integrated transport plan in Tshwane which, amongst others, will provide for a comprehensive non-motorised transportation network and integrated public transport with an emphasis on safety.

Slum reduction and urban sprawl

Too often, urban growth is accompanied by increasing urban poverty. One billion people currently live in slums without access to basic services, like clean water, electricity or health services.

The urban poor are susceptible to hunger, disease, crime, disaster and often lack a voice in local government.

If urban areas do not plan for this unprecedented growth, they will not only fall short of their full economic potential, but also exacerbate poverty in already vulnerable communities in large cities.

On climate change

There is no doubt that the effects of urbanisation and climate change are converging in dangerous ways.

Cities are major contributors to climate change mainly through energy generation, vehicles, industry and biomass use. At the same time, cities and towns are heavily vulnerable to climate change. People in urban areas across the continent will be affected by rising sea levels, increased precipitation, inland floods, more frequent and stronger cyclones and storms, and periods of more extreme heat and cold. Climate change may also negatively impact infrastructure and worsen access to basic urban services and quality of life in cities.

The green economy transition for growth

The need to provide basic services, secure local economic development while respecting ecological limit calls for innovation in the creation of new industry in order to change the way we do business.

Water resource management

As the population in cities grows, waste management becomes an even bigger challenge. Recycling programs can divert large amounts of materials from landfills but some waste still needs to be disposed of in landfills or energy-from-waste (EFW) sites and landfill sites can further be beneficiated through gas extraction processes. Leapfrogging technology in this area could yield maximum economic benefits.

Honourable Members, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

These issues will be addressed in the different seminar sessions of the Sustainability Week conference over the next three days and we expect to gather expert opinions and share lessons learnt on how to tackle these matters.

I believe that these three days have been structured in a way that will allow us to engage as peers on the broader issues while also getting technical input.

In conclusion

With Africa's economic growth, its cities are increasingly becoming hubs for both economic and socio-cultural development – with increased industrial production and urban population. Cities are increasingly consuming lots of energy and producing more waste that requires complex waste management systems.

At the same time, cities are at the forefront of experiencing a host of climate impacts, including coastal and inland flooding, heat waves, droughts and wildfires. As a result, there is a widespread need for municipal agencies to understand and mitigate climate risks to urban infrastructure and services, and the communities they serve.

More often than not, Africa's cities are building high-carbon, unsafe infrastructure for the minority with cars, not the majority who need or want excellent mass transit, and healthy and affordable options like cycling and walking. Lack of funding and capacity for climate change mitigation remain problematic. But despite these barriers, cities globally – including in Africa – are taking action as best they can.

The African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum is the most important gathering of the year for the leaders of Africa's capital cities. It is a time to meet, gain insight, exchange

best practices, and make resolutions for the future – resolutions that will impact the future of every African citizen.

Programme Director,

Kindly allow me the opportunity to acknowledge the following partners who have made it possible to host this year's African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum:

- **Nissan South Africa**
- **Beka Schreder**
- **Alive2Green and associated partners**
- **City Lodge Hotel Lynnwood and the exceptional patience of their staff**
- **City of Tshwane task team**

To us this is an important event and I thank everyone for their participation. May your time be productive as you seek consensus on the opportunities for cities to take a leadership role in relation to sustainability.

This year's programme is sure to leave you with gems of knowledge and key, innovative information.

I thank you.