

ANNUAL LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2009

1. Background

The LED Conference is an annual event that brings different LED role players together to share experiences, learn new LED concepts and also finding solutions to challenges facing the province as far as LED is concerned.

2. Theme & Objectives of the Conference

Conference Theme

“Together Accelerating Local Economic Development”.

Conference Objectives

The intended objectives of the conference are:

- To assess the current status of government’s development programmes, future programmes, and resources for economic development.
- To provide LED role players information and alternatives for surviving the global financial crisis.
- To explore different capacity building tools for local government and LED stakeholders.
- To provide LED role players with an opportunity to access knowledge, information and networking with different role players.

3. Conference Content

The conference will be a one-day information conference and will be devoted to presentations on key issues that are relevant to priority issues affecting economic growth in South Africa, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal. Speakers are drawn from Government, public and private sectors. LED Programme beneficiaries, delegates will be given an opportunity to exchange learning experiences through plenary discussions. Topics for discussion include:

- 15 Year Review of Government
- Five Year Plan for Economic Development in KZN
- The Role of a Developmental State in the KZN economy

- Funding for LED
- Navigating through the Global Financial Crisis
- Community Based Financial Systems for the Poor.
- Building Local Government Capacity for Economic Development.

4. Targeted audience

The conference is targeting the following LED stakeholders:

- a. Department of Economic Development Portfolio Committee representatives.
- b. District & Local Municipalities LED Portfolio Committee representatives.
- c. District & Local Municipalities Mayors
- d. District & Local Municipal Managers
- e. District & Local LED Managers
- f. Traditional Leaders
- g. Provincial Government Departments
- h. National Government Departments
- i. Business Chamber representatives
- j. Civil Society representatives
- k. Public Entities
- l. Commercial Banks representatives
- m. Corporate Companies
- n. SMMEs
- o. Youth Entrepreneurs
- p. Women Business Organizations

5.4. Exhibition

The Department together with its public entities, Ithala, Dube Trade Port, the Growth Fund, TIKZN and Gijima KZN LED Support Programme will showcase their work and distribute useful material during the conference. Useful LED information, documents, flyers, etc will be packaged, branded according to the theme of the conference and will be distributed during the conference. Three projects funded by the LED Programme in KZN will also showcase their work during the conference.