



MEDIA/PRESS STATEMENT

4th Development Week – 17 -19 October 2011 at Ditlhake Sports Complex in Koffiefontein

When the diamond mines suddenly shut down operations in 2006 and thousands of residents of Koffiefontein found themselves without an income, the future looked bleak. Mired in grinding poverty that has been passed down from one generation to another, more than 50% of Koffiefontein's residents are stuck below the poverty line. But now the town is learning to look for solutions to its developmental challenges in a different way.

A partnership between the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and Letsemeng Municipality will also contribute to the local economic development initiatives of Koffiefontein.

Koffiefontein has been identified as the host of the 4th Annual Development Week - a gathering of community members, development experts, academics, developmental practitioners, government representative, the private sector and other stakeholders where developmental solutions are discussed and shared amongst the participants.

Development Week provides disadvantaged communities with an ideal platform to reflect on their development, empowering them to learn from others' experiences, strategies and solutions for sustainable poverty eradication. It also provides an opportunity for the IDT and its development partners and stakeholders to listen to the voices, aspirations, needs and lessons of communities with the specific focus of finding lasting solutions to poverty eradication and local economic development.

The Development Week 3 day community dialogue will also include the public presentation of the IDT's 2010/11 Annual Report.

Building up towards the Development Week, Letsemeng Municipality and the IDT have started engaging the community to unearth key development possibilities and challenges. This includes a clean up campaign undertaken by Letsemeng Municipality, the community and the IDT.

Members of the media and the wider community are invited to attend this exciting and informative event where they can learn about some of the hard bread-and-butter difficulties facing millions of ordinary South Africans every day - and about creative responses to turn around the country's development challenge.

The event will be honoured by the Deputy Minister of Public Works Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Bongki Ntuli and the MEC for

Public Works in Free State, Ms Sisi Mabe, and the Mayor of Letsemeng, Ms Thandiwe Reachable.

Date : October 17 to 19

Venue : Dithake Sports complex, Koffiefontein, Free State

Contact : Vukani Mthintso: Tel: (051) 444 0970