

ANGOLA TRADE DELEGATION



Enterprise iLembe and the iLembe Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the office of the Premier hosted a trade delegation from Benguela on Monday the 11th of February at Hotel Izulu. It was a high profile networking event, with interests and opportunities in doing business with Angola.

(EXCO) Councillor AmitaBadul welcomed Angola at the Trade Delegation luncheon.

There lie massive export opportunities for Angola as strong foreign trade partners. Their regions are rich in resources such as oil, gas and diamonds. Angola Trade Delegation was thanked for their time and interest shown in iLembe district. (EXCO) Councillor Amita Badul wished upon all delegates and local businesses who attended the luncheon to be able to create prominent relationships while enjoying food grown in our region.

Mel Clarke President of the iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism addressed the guests with a special thanks to Angola for including iLembe District in their travels.

Mel Clarke pointed out that each region speaks their own political language but one common language we all speak is the same language of business - the language of supply and demand in markets, business relationships and profit.

The hope that what we started at the luncheon was the start of a common language as business people to find a way in which we can work together as two countries - South Africa and Angola, and the two provinces Benguela and KZN. Both our countries are different from the rest of the world, as in Southern Africa we experience social challenges, backlog in development and poverty, which we as business people need to address. Like in Angola and Benguela we try work with our government leaders to find a balance.

This part of KZN is known as the jewel of our province because of its beauty. A big part of business members are involved in the hospitality and service sector - this sector is growing in Angola as well. The opportunity is to re-enforce the idea that we are building a common trading market in Southern Africa, therefore we need to be asking the same thing of our government; so that we can compete with other regions internationally.

On behalf of the iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and KZN we hope this is the start of future discussions and information sessions.

Carlos Vascencelos President of Benguela Chamber:

On behalf of all the delegates here from Angola in the marvellous province of KZN they were delighted with the reception received at the luncheon. They felt that they were welcomed and not estranged in South Africa yet part of what could evolve in a continuity of success. They represented various industries such as commerce, tourism, agriculture; rent a cars, fishery, production of salt, pharmaceutical setc. Carlos expressed their goals to return to their country with the benefit of having formed partnerships and private deals in business and development of both countries local economies.

Finance MEC Ina Cronje was most excited about the fact that the 21st Century is a century for the African Continent.

A few years ago after economists finalised fiscal and financial reports a damning front page caption was released in the press of "Africa the Hopeless Continent" this was published in 2000. The interesting thing is a short decade later that very same publication published the exact opposite,they

wrote glowing reports and characterised "Africa as the continent of hope"

In deed if one has to analyse the economy and the economic trends- growth is in Africa and the East. Not only in South Africa but other African countries are growing faster in some instances. Angola is doing particularly well and we congratulate them. We understand the history and believe Angola is also a country of hope. Between Benguela and KZN provinces a number of opportunities have been identified.

It is exciting that Angola delegation has visited our province and Finance MEC Cronje expressed the wish as Carlos did that Angola won't leave empty handed.

Africa wants support but mostly Africa wants Trade not Aid. We can do it for ourselves and forming business relationships and partnerships would help take us in the right direction.

Angola is one of South Africa's closest neighbours and we wish that it will bring a lot of advantages to both our provinces and both our countries.



Once again on behalf of The Premier, Provincial Government and Private Sectors a warm welcome and wish to Angola for a wonderful week ahead and we look forward to embarking on new ventures.

Report written by: Renalda Hoffmann (iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Herewith a direct Link to the Photo Album of the event on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.512580342119232.113143.187143844662885&type=3>