

## INTRODUCTION BY MR. TSHEDISO MATONA AT THE UNIDO OFFICE LAUNCH ON 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006.

Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry  
Honourable Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella  
Honourable Minister of Enterprise and Employment from Swaziland, Mr. Lufto Dlamini  
Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry from Lesotho, Mr. Mpho Malie  
The Honourable High Commissioner of Botswana  
Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Sue van der Merwe  
CEOs of the institutions  
Senior Officials of the dti  
Distinguished Guests and Delegates

I am greatly honoured to stand in front of you this morning and for the opportunity to briefly share with you the purpose of today's august occasion, being UNIDO's launch ceremony. Today we are celebrating the opening of the first SADC sub-regional UNIDO office in the dti Campus and to further sign the Host Country Agreement.

South Africa, honourable Ministers acceded to UNIDO in the year 2000 as the 165<sup>th</sup> member country of this organization. SA's accession to this UN family agency specializing on industrial development followed an the acceptance of South Africa after our democracy into the multilateral fora where we have seen SA acceding to many other multilateral institutions broadly from different line function departments. This displays South Africa's commitment to multilateralism and the role that the UN system can play in partnership with member countries. Our approach is to form partnership with the organization to service the region with our expertise and infrastructure to raise the profile and programme delivery of UNIDO. The partnership will assist in the effective implementation of some of the critical initiatives at a country level regionally and the rest of Africa for an example NEPAD, such as SADC trade agreement SACU etc.

The Host Country Agreement being signed today, details the relationship between South Africa, the identified member countries and UNIDO, these include Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Malawi, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia. We invited, strategically all Ministers of Trade and Industries and relevant line function departments responsible for managing the respective country's relationship with UNIDO to honour this day and celebrate together with them. Unfortunately, we are aware that due to prior commitments some of these Ministers could not make it to the launch.

The sub-regional office will, amongst others:

- Operate as a node for the UNIDO sub-regional information network and;
- Promote positive interaction and cross-fertilisation between UNIDO sub-regional or regional institutions located in the sub-region, including funds mobilisation from development financing institutions;
- Assist in the implementation of some of the south-south initiatives.

An institution such as UNIDO is expected in line with its mandate and mission to assist developing nations, especially Africa in building industrial capabilities for an increased share in world trade, labour productivity, private sector-led productivity growth which is driven by technological progress, upgrading and diffusion. With Africa being UNIDO's priority, we believe that the relationship that is being sealed today through this agreement will be a long and fulfilling one. Clear technical support programmes are needed especially for the Sub-Saharan region, which has experienced extreme poverty for the last 20 years.

My Minister and Comrade, Minister Mpahlwa will give a detailed address on the significance of UNIDO for the South African industry. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Sue van der Merwe will also take us through the UN relations with South Africa, including the role of UNIDO in the sub-Saharan region.

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We welcome UNIDO to the dti Campus that hosts some of the key dti family of institutions that are of strategic importance for UNIDO's effective programme implementation. As South Africa we welcome the huge mandate of hosting an office that will service a number of other countries in the SADC.

I thank you