

GEORGE MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

**WELCOME BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF GEORGE MUNICIPALITY:
ALDERMAN MELVIN NAIK**

**EVENT: EDEN SKILL SUMMIT
DATE: THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2018
TIME: 09H00
PLACE: CIVIC HALL**

Program Director

Premier of the Western Cape Government, Honourable Ms Helen Zille

It is indeed a honour to welcome you all to a ground-breaking and transformational skills development summit, which is but one stream of the Garden Route Rebuild Initiative driven by a shared vision of rebuilding and renewing the Garden Route's economy.

We are all gearing ourselves to be sustainable and sometimes the challenges that surround this objective seem insurmountable. It is clear that we have arrived at the juncture where all stakeholders and partners from all spheres need to intensify and be more pragmatic in ensuring an integrated and collaborative approach to develop skills, ignite economic development, sustainable job creation and alleviate poverty and ultimately social transformation.

We find ourselves within the Knowledge Economy generation and relevant skills training and development are key factors in growing our economy over the next decade and beyond.

It is through constructive engagements that we can move away from the confines of our own core focus and move over to the field of almost endless possibilities. These windows of opportunities however will not open themselves.

We all want our towns, cities and region to grow and the responsibility to make it happen lies not only in the hands of solitary departments or

sphere of government, but we have to unlock every opportunity and resource to realise this objective.

In welcoming you may I also take the opportunity to call on our commitment in laying the foundation and providing the Garden Route with a road map to maximise the current and needed skills within our region. This is indeed an essential initiative and trust that it will contribute to our region taking up and fulfilling its rightful place and role within the country's and global economy.

Once again welcome and I look forward with anticipation to the deliberations.