Municipality in talks with private sector

MBOMBELA - The City of Mbombela Local Municipality has entered into informal talks with the private sector to try and improve the local economy.

The first "Let's Talk" session between the municipality and organised business took place at Mbombela Stadium on February 1. Issues, opportunities, challenges and synergies which affect local economic development and growth were discussed.

Acting municipal manager, Neil Diamond, and his senior team represented the City.



Neil Diamond.

The business sector was represented by Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism, the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce, the South African Property Owners Association as well as various corporate companies and private businesses in the City of Mbombela.

James Aling, chairman of the Mbombela Economic Development Partnership explained that the private business sector is very well organised and represented by the various business associations and partnerships.

He raised service delivery, illegal land invasions, high unemployment and growing levels of dissatisfaction among local communities as some of the challenges facing the local economy.

According to Aling these can only be addressed in a collaborative and partnership manner, which the private sector is willing to do.

Diamond discussed the municipality's current dire financial situation and confirmed that it will take up to five years to turn it around through decreasing municipal expenditure and improving internal management controls.

He also requested the private sector to do its part to ensure that the City of Mbombela succeeds and thrives.

The groups agreed to have the "Let's Talk" sessions on a quarterly basis to follow up on progress, problems and new opportunities.